



Graduate School of Education & Information Studies
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August 20, 2019

Superintendent Austin Beutner and the Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
333 S. Beaudry Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Superintendent Beutner, School Board Members and LAUSD stakeholders,

As Professors of General and Special Education in the universities preparing future teachers of Los Angeles, we put our full support behind LAUSD's efforts to maximize opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated with their general education peers. Inclusive practices ensure that all students are successful and are made to feel welcome at school and given access to every aspect of school life. For this important project to be successful, it is imperative that the most capable teams from both the general education and special education arenas come together to support all learners.

Research has consistently proven the benefits of educating students with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers for both student groups (see attached *Research Support for Inclusive Education and SWIFT*). Even more striking, there has not been a study in 30 years supporting the educational practice of segregating students with disabilities. We have an ethical obligation to provide students with disabilities with equitable access to rigorous instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards and believe this will lead to better post-secondary outcomes.

We highly support these efforts to design and deliver inclusive environments for all students at every opportunity. We are committed to providing resources and guidance in LAUSD's implementation of increased inclusion and look forward to having more inclusive classrooms for both general and special education student teachers and intern teachers to implement practices learned in their credential programs.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco.

Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco
Wassermann Dean & Distinguished Professor of Education
Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA

Handwritten signature of Annamarie M. Francois.

Annamarie M. Francois, EdD
Executive Director, UCLA Center X
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Tyrone C. Howard, PhD
Professor of Education, Urban Schooling
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Handwritten signature of Connie Kasari.

Connie Kasari, PhD
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Handwritten signature of Pedro Noguera.

Pedro Noguera, PhD
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Handwritten signature of Christina (Tina) Christie.

Christina (Tina) Christie, PhD
Chair, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies,
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