



LAUSD
UNIFIED

**California Education Policy Agenda
Committee of the Whole**

September 22, 2026

California Education Policy Agenda



Los Angeles Unified
School District

CALIFORNIA EDUCATION POLICY AGENDA

September 2026

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Executive Summary

Academics – California continues to experience stubborn achievement gaps between student groups and lower performance overall compared to other states and countries. Supporting the early learning system, making kindergarten mandatory, undertaking a holistic review of California's curriculum and graduation requirements, instituting effective college and career pathways, and taking steps to improve teacher preparation would support better student outcomes.

Accountability – California administrators spend an enormous amount of time meeting administrative reporting requirements that do not result in data or information that systemically changes action or policy. Los Angeles Unified urges the State to revise California's accountability standards into systems that are coherent and aligned with state priorities, less burdensome to schools, and provide higher-quality information.

Adequacy of Funding – Recent increases in state spending on education have been outmatched by rising costs for school districts. Los Angeles Unified believes that acting to contain healthcare and pension costs, fully funding Proposition 98, updating the local control funding formula, including a consideration of enrollment-based funding and need-based investments in special education, and implementing tax policies that increase state revenues will promote more equitable and sustainable school funding.

AI Innovation and Guardrails – The risks of prolonged chatbot interactions by children may pose real harms to the physical and mental health of our students. Los Angeles Unified supports policy guardrails to ensure the dangers of these powerful tools are reined in.

Emergencies – When natural disasters strike, schools must respond immediately to the situations on the ground. Passing state laws or regulations that automatically trigger local flexibility in times of emergency would improve the local response and eliminate delays caused by State administrative action.

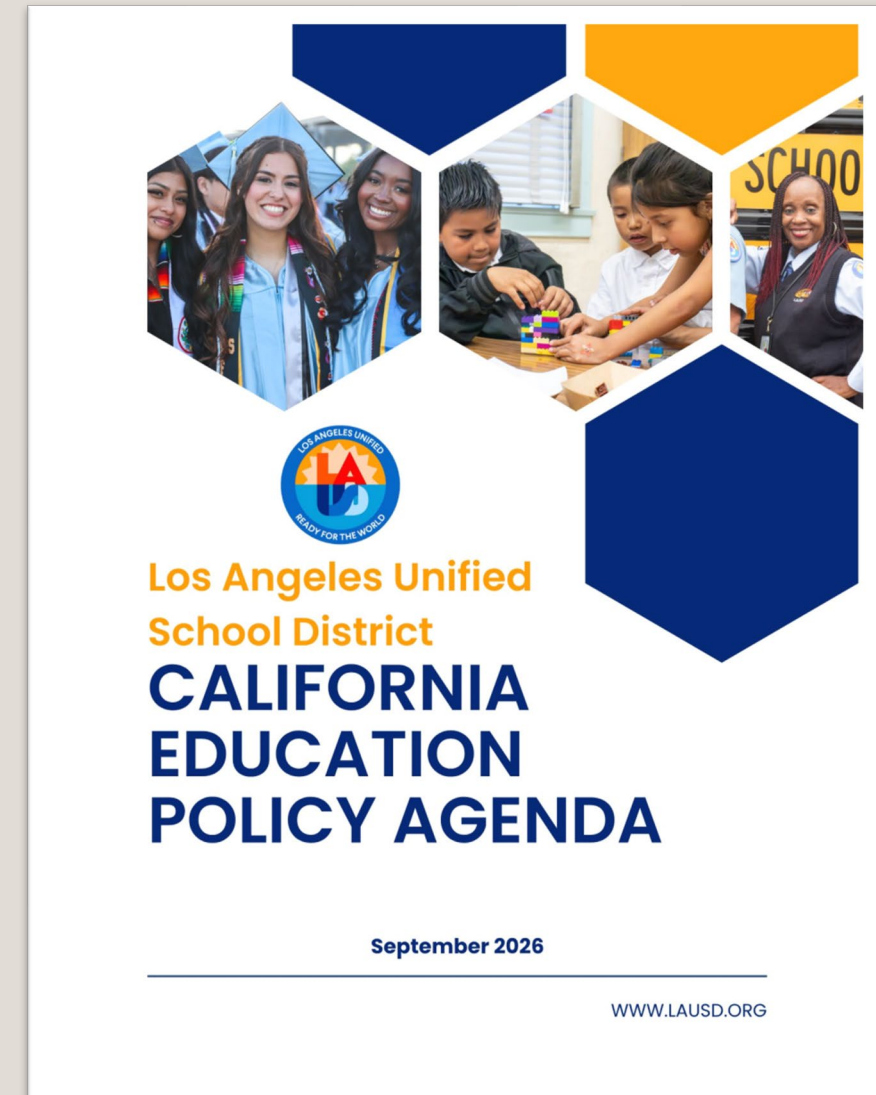
School Facilities – Existing state review processes for school facilities projects regularly delay construction by up to nine months, depriving students of quality school environments and increasing project costs. With additional staffing at the Division of the State Architect for concurrent or milestone-based review processes, K-12 schools could benefit from the same tools currently available for community college projects.

Student Housing and Homelessness – Hundreds of thousands of K-12 students experience homelessness in California. Strengthening coordination and collaboration between state agencies, local governments, and school districts would improve the systems of support available to housing-insecure young people.

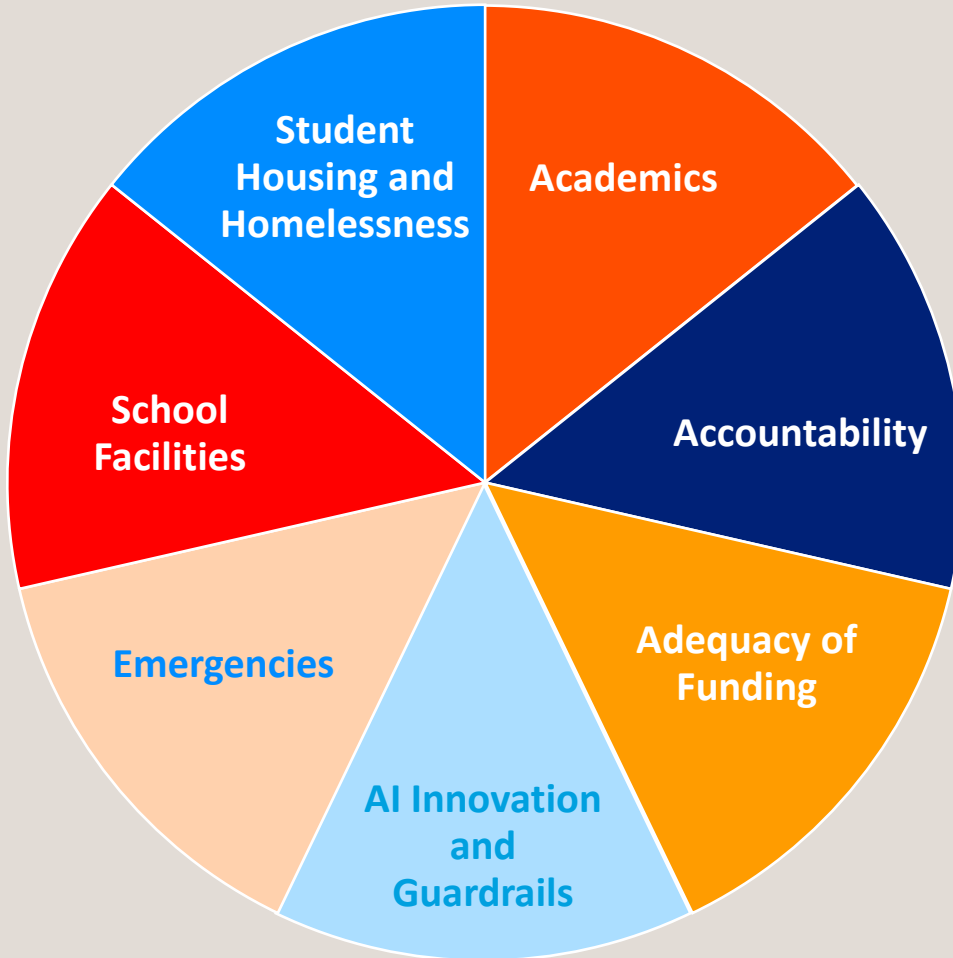
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Overview

- A comprehensive, unified set of policy and funding priorities to advance the educational success and well-being of Los Angeles Unified students and families.
- Provides an opportunity for the District to establish a multi-year framework for coordinated advocacy on state issues of importance to Los Angeles Unified.
- The annual Advocacy Agenda includes more immediate advocacy priorities, including approval of District-sponsored legislation and state budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.



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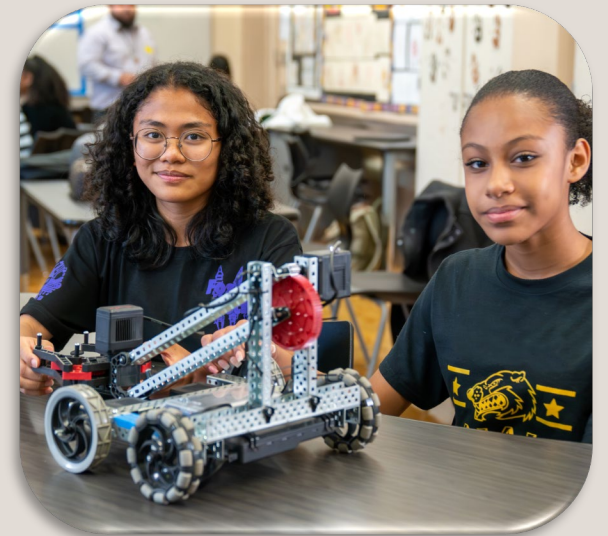
- LAUSD's scale, diversity, and experience provide a unique perspective on both the opportunities and practical challenges facing school systems across the state.
- The role of schools continues to evolve into more than just a purely academic institution.
- This Policy Agenda was developed with input from Board offices and insights from our experienced district instructional leaders and is grounded in LAUSD's core beliefs of equity, collaboration, and excellence.

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Academics

Key priorities for how education can be changed to promote success for all students in the modern world include:

- Promoting High-Quality Early Learning
- Mandatory Kindergarten
- Teacher Preparation
- Curriculum and Graduation Requirements
- College and Career Readiness



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Accountability



Streamlined state reporting systems would create coherence and alignment with state priorities, while reducing administrative burden.



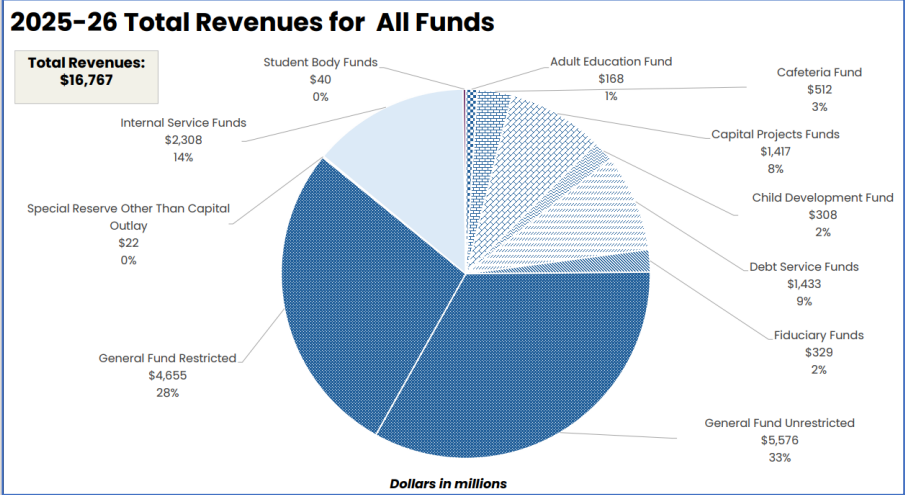
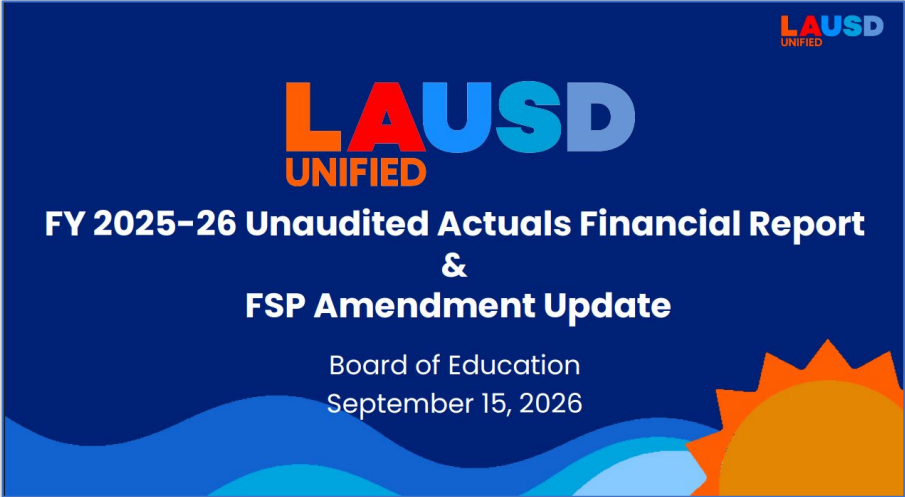
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Adequacy of Funding

Key priorities for how the State can address the adequacy of education funding include:

- Protect Proposition 98
- Updating the Local Control Funding Formula
- Enrollment-Based Funding
- Special Education
- Funding Healthcare and Pension Costs
- State Revenue Solutions



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AI Innovation and Guardrails

Continued regulation of Generative AI technology, including chatbots, is necessary to ensure the dangers of these powerful tools are reined in.



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Emergencies

Standardization of the State's administrative tools for responding to a natural disaster, such that flexibilities may be automatically triggered in the event of a declared emergency, would give local decisionmakers the appropriate powers to address the emergency in real time.



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School Facilities

School districts would benefit from the streamlining of state project review timelines and support from the State in the local decision-making process for consolidation and reconfiguration of schools.



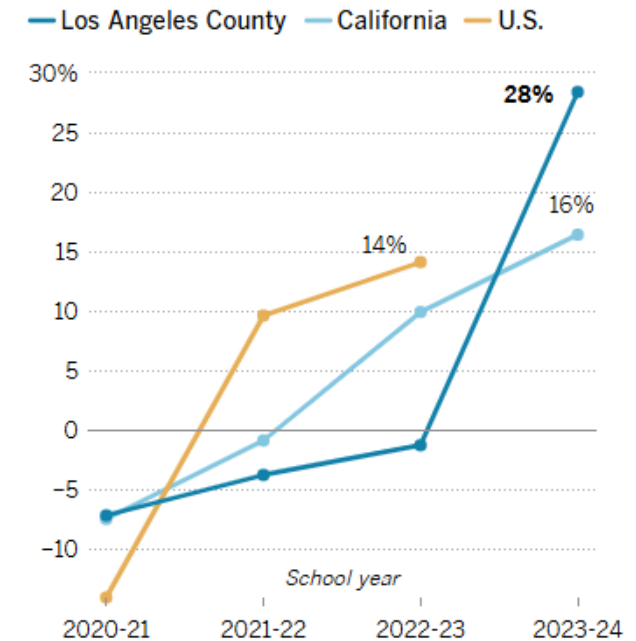
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Student Housing and Homelessness

Stronger coordination between the State, local educational agencies, and school districts is needed to create a more integrated system of support for students and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Student homelessness in L.A. County surged, outpacing state and national trends

Percentage changes in number of homeless students



Data derived from CDE, 2024b; U.S. Department of Education, 2023. National data for school year 2023-24 was not available.

UCLA

Lorena Itigüez Elebee LOS ANGELES TIMES

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Next Steps

- The Policy Agenda provides an opportunity for the District to establish a multi-year framework for coordinated advocacy on state issues of importance to Los Angeles Unified. It complements the annual Advocacy Agenda with more immediate policy and funding priorities.
- OGR intends to use the agenda to strengthen State partnerships with the next Governor, newly-elected State officials, and other policymakers and advocate for policies and investments aligned with District goals and priorities.
- OGR will continue to engage labor partners, urban districts, and local and statewide education organizations to identify areas of common interest that could result in co-sponsored bills, coalition letters, and shared budget priorities.
- The Board will be asked to adopt the 2027 Advocacy Agenda and revised Guiding Principles and Priorities on December 15, 2026.

Questions?