

Request to Place Item on Los Angeles Unified Board of Education's Agenda by members of the public, in accordance with Board of Education Rule 132 and California Education Code Section 35145.5

Resolution: Ensuring Local School Site and Community Control, Authority, Autonomy and Choice Regarding Safe Campuses and the Protection of Our Students and Staff - Presented to LAUSD Board Secretariat on May 19, 2025

Whereas, Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to equity, collaboration and excellence, leading every student to be READY FOR THE WORLD, to thrive in college, career and life;

Whereas, The Strategic Plan Pillar 2 Joy and Wellness elevates the District's commitment to:

- Serving the whole child, attending to the social, emotional and physical health and wellness of students so they are prepared and energized to focus on learning, growing and building meaningful connections at school; and
- Fostering a safe, inclusive, and supporting school culture on every campus and minimizing disruptions or barriers to learning;

Whereas, Attitudes toward school policing are likely viewed through the lens of perceived levels of campus safety and perceptions of school police, including the following:

- The broadly held view that campuses are generally safe before, during, and after school;
- High degrees of consensus that school police are engaged in emergency response activities and protecting campus perimeters, but less certainty around other areas of engagement; and
- Less familiarity with segments of the community that may be negatively impacted by school policing;

Whereas, Public opinion research on school safety involving over 44,000 students, parents and school staff was conducted in October, 2020. Survey results showed a broad range of opinions about what public safety measures respondents preferred or made them feel most comfortable including key findings that, across the demographic subgroups surveyed, perceptions of the Los Angeles School Police Department were largely positive, and among parents and staff there was significant opposition to reducing the presence of school police;

Whereas, In February 2021, the Governing Board passed Board of Education Report No. 266-20/21 which, among other actions,

- Reduced the Los Angeles School Police Department budget and closed 133 of LASPD's positions,
- Created the School Climate Coach position and assigned these positions to all secondary schools, and
- Finalized the action from the June 2020 Board of Education school safety directive, which removed school police officers from assignment to secondary school campuses and created the off campus patrol model;

Whereas, In the 2019-20 school year when school police officers were still assigned to secondary campuses, out of 115,000 services calls, there were only 10 total complaints against school police from staff, parents or students;

Whereas, Safety incident reports generated from the iSTAR system as presented on an ad-hoc basis to the Board of Education indicate an increase in all reported incident types since schools re-opened in the 2021-2022 school year, after the COVID-19 pandemic, in all incident types and across all geographic areas of the District;

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Whereas, Article I, Section 28(f)(1) of the California Constitution guarantees students and staff of public schools the Right to Safe Schools, and grants them the inalienable right to attend campuses which are safe, secure and peaceful;

Whereas, Each school site is responsible for developing a comprehensive school safety plan, as required by California Education Code Sections 32280-32289.5, based on the needs of the campus climate, which is reflective in the cornerstone value of the Community Schools model of local autonomy and decision making, yet school-based administrators have expressed profound unreadiness and a lack of empowerment as it relates to accessing all available resources to aid in optimizing school safety for their campuses in a way that aligns with the true spirit of local control;

Whereas, California Education Code Section 32282(a)(1) requires the comprehensive school safety plan to include assessment of the current status of school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions, yet the District has no systematic method for public reporting of safety incidents recorded in the iSTAR system or Calls for Service by Los Angeles School Police officers. The proposed comprehensive school safety plan must be presented at a public meeting for comment prior to its adoption per state law [EDC 32288(b)(1)];

Whereas, Both the Local Control and Accountability Plan 2024-2025, Goal 2 and the Strategic Plan, Pillar 2: Joy and Wellness, include student responses to the School Experience Survey question "I feel safe in this school" as a measurement, with projected increased target outcomes (LCAP: 72.3% in Year 3, Strategic Plan: 82% in 2025-2026) which are not on track to be achieved based on the trendline from recent years. The percent of students answering "I agree" or "I strongly agree" decreased from 72.7% in the 2021-2022 school year to 67.3% in the 2022-2023 school year, and further down to 63.5% in the most recent reporting year, 2023-2024. Neither the LCAP nor the Strategic Plan include any school safety incident data as measurement tools to assess the effectiveness of the Joy and Wellness Goal or Pillar;

Whereas, Although school-site positions and programs such as School Climate Advocates, Campus Aides, and Safe Passage contractors are valuable and essential components of positive school climate resources, they have different job descriptions and duties and are therefore not substitutes for the school crime, violence, and drug prevention role of School Police officers when they are assigned to secondary schools. Other community resources such as the Los Angeles Mayor's Office - Gang Reduction & Youth Development (GRYD) program can also be valuable in the limited geographic areas where they are offered, but their services are only available to certain populations of at-risk youth and cannot be considered as resources available to all LA Unified students;

Whereas, As the largest authorizer of charter schools in the nation, the District has long been considered a major proponent of allowing parents and families to choose or be assigned to publicly funded schools that are independent, autonomous and not bound by centrally generated policies and practices that their local school community may not support, thus allowing families who live in the attendance areas for independent charter high schools such Granada Hills, Pacific Palisades, Birmingham, and El Camino Real to assess the needs of their schools and local communities, freely discuss options, contract to employ and assign Los Angeles School Police Officers to their campuses, and make decisions concerning critical issues such as school climate, health, safety and protecting students and staff - discussions and decisions not currently available to neighboring affiliated charter high schools such as Sylmar, Taft, Cleveland, and Reseda; and

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Whereas, The Board and District staff - understanding that the District covers an area totaling 710 square miles, including most of the city of Los Angeles and all or portions of 26 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County - are currently engaged in profound discussions about the need for equitable resource allocation based on the recognition that school communities have different needs based on unequal and different opportunities, resources and experiences; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the students, parents and staff who constitute the different and diverse school communities throughout the Los Angeles Unified School District be granted the authority and flexibility to discuss, determine and decide on the measures they believe will improve and maintain positive school climate and safety on their school campuses;

Resolved further, That the Board of Education approve sufficient funding in the 2025-2026 Los Angeles Unified School District Budget and Annual Update to the Local Control and Accountability Plan to restore assigned School Police officers to secondary schools which select that option as part of their comprehensive school safety plan during the 2025-2026 school year,

Resolved further, That the Superintendent direct staff to evaluate safety-related incident data, to include at a minimum iSTAR and School Police Department Calls for Service, consistent with student privacy laws, and evaluate potential formal, systematic methods to report safety incident data to the public, in preparation for a written report and public presentation to the Board by August, 2025: and be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent direct staff to create a comprehensive, robust Safety Accountability Plan for public presentation to the Board by August, 2025 to:

- Identify appropriate multi-faceted goals, actions, and measurements to evaluate School Safety on an ongoing basis,
- Identify school safety and climate accountability metrics and measurements for use as Baseline, Annual Results and Target Goals, in addition to the limited measurements called for in the 2024-2025 LCAP and Strategic Plan, and
- Implement the School Police Request Assessment process developed by the Office of School Climate and Culture or develop a new School Police Request assessment plan.