



Community Advisory Committee
Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement
Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Greetings, Community Advisory Committee Members,

It is with a shared sadness that this update begins, as we inform you about the unexpected, tragic passing of one of our beloved Senior Parent Community Facilitator, Ms. Leah S. Brackins. Serving the students and families of the Los Angeles Unified for over 25 years, Ms. Brackins was dedicated to inspiring and supporting all whom she encountered. She is remembered as a wife, mother, grandmother, friend, mentor and spiritual guide to many, and she is one of the pioneering leaders behind the Parent and Family Center movement within the Los Angeles Unified. Her involvement began during her years as a LAUSD parent, continued in her role as a Community Representative in a Parent and Family Center, and extended through her current position in the Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement, working with the Community Advisory Committee, the Parent Advisory Committee and the Family Academy. Her legacy of compassion and dedication to the empowerment of parents will continue through the deep impact she has had on the staff and families of the District.



In the spirit of parent empowerment, we congratulate you on having held your first round of CAC subcommittees this month. In the subcommittees, you discussed plans for expanding outreach to provide a broader scope of support for the parents of students with special needs. You came together around a common desire to advocate for improved services and legislation and to see families strengthened with more information and resources for children. The opportunities listed below provide parents and community members with spaces to reflect, grow and learn; and we encourage you to join us in partnership to help all of our students achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan Pillar III: Engagement and Collaboration Highlights

School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Committees (ELAC): Schools have formed their SSCs and ELACs for the new year, and there are only two Saturday ELAC and SSC training sessions left. On Saturday, October 18, training will be provided at Vista Middle School from 9 am to 1 pm on a variety of topics, including on understanding budgets and Robert's Rules of Order. A webinar will be offered on October 25 as well. If you are serving as a member of these groups this year, or are *not* a member but want to



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learn more, consider attending the in-person training session on October 18 to gain hands-on learning experiences with other members. For additional details, view the [flyer here](#).

Region Ambassadors: The Los Angeles Unified Region Ambassadors will be valuable advocates and guides who inform their school communities about District services and resources. Each segment of learning is hosted in a hybrid format to meet the preference of diverse families so they can learn in person and online. If interested in learning more about supports for English Learners, for students with special needs, or the Local Control and Accountability Plan, which is the District's plan for use of its general funds, consider attending a Region Ambassador session. The first round of ambassador sessions are being held now. <https://www.lausd.org/ambassadors>



Special Education Workshops: The Division of Special Education has various resources available for parents so they can take advantage of every opportunity to be an active partner in their child's education. Workshops and training are offered throughout the school year, covering various topics related to the needs of students with disabilities and the many ways parents can support their child both in and out of the classroom. In addition to workshops and training sessions, District- and community-sponsored events supportive of students and parents are available. For more information, visit <https://sped.lausd.org/parents>.

The Parent Portal is available for all parents and guardians to learn more about the program and progress of their children in a variety of different areas. Over 87% of Los Angeles Unified families are already connected! Learning about the different features of the Parent Portal allows parents to partner with their school communities to celebrate student achievement, ask focused questions and identify needed support. Call the Los Angeles Unified Hotline at 213-443-1300 for help getting connected or for assistance with using the features.

The School Volunteer Program is a resource available for families and the community to offer their time, skills and knowledge to support Los Angeles Unified students. This year, Los Angeles Unified had over **28,000** processed volunteers serving in District schools. For more information about the School Volunteer Program, visit <https://www.lausd.org/volunteer>.



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The Family Academy: The Family Academy is comprised of webinar, in-person and hybrid sessions designed to leverage families' assets to be empowered as they support their child from the early primary years to college and career success. This effort complements families' knowledge by connecting them to actionable learning focused on their child's development, as well as opportunities to accelerate their own careers and quality of livelihood. The schedules for offerings online and in the Regions with webinar links and summary information is available at <https://www.lausd.org/familyacademy>, along with past recorded content.

Aeva Adult Education Virtual Academy **LAUSD**

Classes for Parents

Learn how to help your child succeed in School

We are offering four classes at no cost:

- African American and Black Learners** (Tuesdays & Thursdays): Focus on the history of special education, parental rights, the Individualized Education Program (IEP), and key strategies for successful learning.
- Exceptional Learners** (Wednesdays & Thursdays): Focus on the history of special education, parental rights, the Individualized Education Program (IEP), and key strategies for successful learning.
- Youngest Learners** (Mondays & Tuesdays): Explore the importance of language, literacy, numeracy, social-emotional and physical development, and the importance of play.
- Multilingual Learners** (Tuesdays & Thursdays): Learn about the benefits of multilingualism, the unique challenges young learners face, and strategies to support their growth in the home.

Classes meet over Zoom in the evenings 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

ONLINE Classes
Sign up today!
Scan the QR code, Call (323) 224-9995
Visit [LAUSDAdultEd.com/JoinYourChild](https://www.lausd.org/laUSDAdultEd.com/JoinYourChild)

Graduates will be honored by the District at the end of the school year!

Equity Course Pathways: The Family Academy, in partnership with the Division of Adult and Career Education, offers cohort-centered courses known as Equity Course Pathways. The curriculum is organized as a 7-class course experience where families engage in culturally relevant curriculum in a cohort learning environment, define family engagement, and develop their action plan to stay engaged in their child's education. Choose from one of four pathways: multilingual learners, Black and African American learners, youngest learners, and learners with exceptional needs. Click on the link to join the interest list and someone will contact you to enroll: [LAUSDAdultEd.org/HelpYourChild](https://www.lausd.org/laUSDAdultEd.org/HelpYourChild)

Resources

Los Angeles Unified Student Wellness and Family Hotline: Please continue to direct parents and students to this service provided for families. Trained District personnel are available to help on all health-related topics and are accessible by dialing the following number: 213-241-3840.

Los Angeles Division of Special Education School and Family Support Services

Hotline: The Division of Special Education provides support for families to access resources and gain information to help their children. For more information on services to support students with special needs, call (213) 241-6701.

Region Leaders: Each child's school sits in a geographical Region in the Los Angeles Unified. To connect with District leaders in a specific Region or to learn more about the specific services offered in the Region, visit <https://www.lausd.org/regions>.

Board of Education Meetings: The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education hosts meetings in person and will continue to broadcast meetings online. In addition, there is



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a Board of Education Special Education Committee meeting on October 22. More information about this committee can be found on [this website](#). Visit the following webpage to learn how to speak during public comment: <https://www.lausd.org/boe>.

Responsibilities Assigned to the CAC in the California Education Code, Section 56194

The community advisory committee shall have the authority and fulfill the responsibilities that are defined for it in the local plan. The responsibilities shall include, but need not be limited to, all the following:

- (a) Advising the policy and administrative entity of the special education local plan area regarding the development, amendment, and review of the local plan. The entity shall review and consider comments from the community advisory committee.
- (b) Recommending annual priorities to be addressed by the plan.
- (c) Assisting in parent education and in recruiting parents and other volunteers who may contribute to the implementation of the plan.
- (d) Encouraging community involvement in the development and review of the local plan.
- (e) Supporting activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs.
- (f) Assisting in parent awareness of the importance of regular school attendance.
- (g) Supporting community involvement in the parent advisory committee established pursuant to [Section 52063](#) to encourage the inclusion of parents of individuals with exceptional needs to the extent these pupils also fall within one or more of the definitions in [Section 42238.01](#).



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