



Community Advisory Committee
Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Greetings, Community Advisory Committee Members,

Congratulations to our new Community Advisory Committee (CAC) officers for the 2025–2026 school year! CAC officers devote their time and tremendous effort to leading alongside the Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement (SFCE) and the Division of Special Education (DSE), dedicated to providing support for members' learning and engagement throughout the year. They help lead subcommittees, listen, reflect and build opportunities for growth and participation. For this, we express our gratitude to them!

Today's CAC meeting builds a foundation for the learning members will experience throughout the year with an overview of the Local Plan and special education services. In addition to serving on this committee, there are other learning opportunities that we are sharing with you below. One program to highlight is our **Special Education Region Ambassador Sessions**. Yesterday, our first Special Education Region Ambassador Session was held in Region East with over 120 participants attending, not including those participants who joined the session through their school's Parent and Family Center. Participants had an opportunity to learn about early childhood special education programs and to engage with District experts and the Region East Special Education Administrative Coordinator, Yolanda Bueno. In addition to these sessions, there are multiple opportunities throughout the Los Angeles Unified to learn about a variety of topics and get support. The following are highlights of various District services and family engagement programming where extended learning for families takes place.

Strategic Plan Pillar III: Engagement and Collaboration Highlights

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 86% 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 20,000 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.

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>.

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

School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Committees (ELAC): School sites are currently forming their SSCs and ELACs for the new year, and training for members will be offered every Saturday in October. If you are serving as a member of these groups this year, consider attending the in-person training sessions on October 11 or October 18 to gain hands-on learning experiences with other members. To view the available offerings and register, view the [flyers 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



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supports for English Learners, 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. For more information and to connect to the sessions, visit <https://www.lausd.org/ambassadors>

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: 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 meeting online. 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.



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- (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](#).