



Detailed demand information below!

#StudentsDeserve Support from LAUSD During a Global Pandemic!

#StudentsDeserve universal passage of all classes and graduation for seniors, not stressful work and deadlines.

#StudentsDeserve graduation ceremonies (when it's safe to have them) to celebrate our achievements.

#StudentsDeserve food distribution centers that are ICE-free and police-free zones.

#StudentsDeserve the cancellation of all rent and evictions, not just a *delay* on when rent is due.

#StudentsDeserve immediate housing, healthcare, and sanitary resources for all who need them.

#StudentsDeserve to have loved ones freed from all prison/detention facilities to stop the spread of COVID-19.

#StudentsDeserve mental health support for trauma and setbacks from this period. We demand a permanent college counselor, PSW (psychiatric social worker), AND grief counselor at every school when schools reopen.

#StudentsDeserve to not be pepper sprayed by school police when we go back to school.

#StudentsDeserve everything that the Black Lives Matter Global Network is demanding in terms of permanent structural supports for communities, that United Teachers Los Angeles is demanding of local and state leaders, that Healthy LA Coalition & LA Tenants Union are demanding regarding housing and eviction moratoriums, and that the Justice LA Coalition and others are demanding regarding "criminal" and prisoner justice during COVID-19.

<https://www.schoolslastudentsdeserve.com>

Students Deserve transparency and inclusion in LAUSD decision-making!

We Demand that LAUSD convene public, online school board meetings to update students, families, and the community about LAUSD's response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We Demand that LAUSD establish a minimum number of public comment spaces reserved explicitly for LAUSD students at every school board meeting.

We Demand that LAUSD issue a public response to the demands outlined in this letter and the issues students and families and communities are experiencing.

1. **#StudentsDeserve universal passage of all classes, and graduation for seniors - not stressful work and deadlines!**

- a. **We Demand that LAUSD immediately implement** a form of grade forgiveness or pass/fail protocol for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year so that students' GPAs, ability to graduate, and school record aren't negatively affected by a global pandemic.
 - i. Every student should pass every class! No student should be penalized during an unprecedented global pandemic.
 - ii. Making all classes pass/fail [as many schools and universities are doing](#), is possible, especially because [there has been so much tech inequity in terms of access to doing work](#). [Many higher learning institutions have already implemented this](#), which indicates that they may also be understanding of high schools that do the same.
 - iii. Other school districts have used language such as the following from Natomas Unified School District in Northern California
 1. "High school students will continue to earn credits. Following CDE guidelines, work will be formative - focused on student learning and not grading. Students who need to raise grades will have those opportunities. Students' grades won't drop from current levels."
- b. **We Demand that LAUSD immediately provide** additional services to students and families with special needs (IEPs, etc.) in recognition of the increased inequity that special needs students are experiencing with online assignments classes, and culturally responsive resource provision. This directive is especially important given that African American students with disabilities are at higher risk of push out. Additional services should include, but not be limited to, virtual or tele-therapy sessions with special needs students and families, regular check-ins with students'

school resource IEP teams, and accessible mental health and wellness resources for families grappling with the challenges of homeschooling and caregiving.

- c. **We Demand that LAUSD firmly state** their intention to returning to in-person schooling as soon as it is safe and possible, against the growing corporate-driven movement to expand distance learning long-term (except in cases where distance learning would be desired and advantageous for students with different needs)
 - d. **We Demand that LAUSD provide** free, quality, accessible, optional academic enrichment programs for at least 18 months following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **#StudentsDeserve** graduation ceremonies (when it's safe to have them) to celebrate our achievements.
- a. Students and families are making many sacrifices during these times, including music and arts shows, sporting events, social activities, and more.
 - b. **We Demand that LAUSD investigate** holding graduation ceremonies, class activities, and other extracurricular activities for graduating seniors and other students when the danger of the Coronavirus pandemic passes.
 - c. **We Demand that LAUSD provide** additional resources to graduating seniors to ensure that students are able to access appropriate college prep, SAT/ACT prep, financial aid support, job training/placement and other materials needed to succeed after high school
3. **#StudentsDeserve** food distribution centers that are ICE-free and police-free zones.
- a. Grab & go food centers in South Central should not be over-policed, especially in Black communities where we are already seeing more policing
 - b. Grab & go food centers should not be sources of danger or fear for students and families with various documentation statuses
 - c. **We Demand that LAUSD:**
 - i. **Immediately** reduce the number of LA School Police officers patrolling South LA schools designated as Grab & Go Food centers.
 - ii. **Immediately Notify** and direct LAPD, ICE, LA County Sheriff's and other police departments and law enforcement entities to cease patrolling schools designated as Grab & Go centers - as their presence effectively bars access to these resources for some students and families who need them

- iii. **Continue** and expand utilization of community-based liaisons or security guards to man Grab & Go food centers to decrease intimidation and criminalization of students, families, and community members
 - iv. **Ensure non-cooperation** between LASPD and ICE/LAPD/LA County Sheriff's/etc. in all immigration enforcement, gang database, or other activity that disproportionately targets immigrants and Black and other youth of color.
 - v. **Pressure** law enforcement officials to place a moratorium on ICE enforcement activity, arrests of all minor or nonviolent infractions by police, etc. to minimize spread of COVID-19 and the criminalization of certain communities.
4. **#StudentsDeserve** the cancellation of all rent collection and evictions, not just a delay on when rent is due.
- a. **We Demand that LAUSD pressure:**
 - i. City and county officials to pass a moratorium on rent, not just a delay on when rent is due. Students and families are facing unprecedented gaps in employment and ability to gain income. Landlords and companies should not be allowed to go back and collect back rent after this crisis is over.
 - ii. City and county officials to immediately begin investigating the possibility of using city and/or county property to house students and families to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
5. **#StudentsDeserve** immediate housing, healthcare, and sanitary resources for all who need them.
- a. **We Demand that LAUSD provide:**
 - i. Continued and expanded food distribution to anyone who wants it.
 - ii. Continued and expanded distribution of health and sanitary resources for anyone who wants it
 - iii. An immediate investigation into the possibility of using district property to house students and families to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
 - b. **We Demand that LAUSD lobby:**
 - i. In support of community-issued demands for resources from local, state, and federal governments that would meet the needs of historically marginalized communities.

- ii. To pressure local officials to ensure that tax dollars in LA City and County during this time are spent to address this public health crisis, not to further criminalize and stigmatize members of our community.
6. **#StudentsDeserve** to have loved ones freed from all prison/detention facilities to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- a. Many students and our families are impacted by mass incarceration, a travesty which becomes even more dangerous when COVID-19 is factored in.
 - b. Jails and prisons are known epicenters of rapid spread of disease. We cannot allow people who are incarcerated to be kept in situations that we know will lead to their illness and death.
 - c. **We Demand that LAUSD immediately** call on LA City and County officials to take the steps outlined by Justice LA Coalition and others to mitigate this humanitarian and health crisis:
 - i. <http://justicelanon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/LA-Jails-COVID-19-Advocacy-Group-Letter-03.15.20.pdf>
7. **#StudentsDeserve** mental health support for trauma and setbacks from this period. We demand a permanent college counselor, PSW (psychiatric social worker), AND grief counselor at every school when schools reopen.
- a. **We Demand that LAUSD provide** these positions at a ratio of 1:250 for PSWs and other mental health providers
 - b. **We Demand that LAUSD immediately** begin investigating ways to shift current district funds away from criminalizing and stigmatizing students, and towards trauma-informed inclusive practices (including Community Schools, Restorative Justice practices, etc.).
 - c. **We Demand that LAUSD support** demands to fully fund education and public services, rather than continued militarization and over-policing.
8. **#StudentsDeserve** to not be pepper sprayed by school police when school reopens
- a. In the calendar year before schools were closed due to Coronavirus pandemic (March 2019- March 2020), Black students were pepper sprayed by school police in at least 5 separate incidents at different schools - LA High, Dorsey High, Fremont High, Narbonne High, and Hollywood High

- b. The LA County Board of Supervisors voted in 2019 to ban the use of pepper spray against youth in all county juvenile detention facilities
 - c. **We demand that LAUSD immediately ban** the use of pepper spray against students by school police and begin investigating methods to de-escalate on-campus situations that do not involved armed police officers

- 9. **#StudentsDeserve** everything that the Black Lives Matter Global Network is demanding in terms of permanent structural supports for communities, that UTLA is demanding of local and state leaders, that Healthy LA Coalition & LA Tenants Union are demanding regarding housing and eviction moratoriums, and that the Justice LA Coalition and others are demanding regarding “criminal” and prisoner justice during COVID-19.
 - a. We Demand that LAUSD pressure local, state, and federal officials to comply with the demands of community-based organizations below:
 - i. Black Lives Matter Global Network
 - 1. <https://blacklivesmatter.com/coronavirus-full-statement/>
 - ii. UTLA
 - 1. <https://www.utla.net/common-good-and-community-support-demands>
 - iii. Healthy LA Coalition:
 - 1. County Proposals: <http://healthyla.org/county-proposals/>
 - 2. City Proposals: <http://healthyla.org/emergency-action-proposal-for-the-city-of-la/>
 - iv. LA Tenants Union
 - 1. <https://medium.com/@LATenantsUnion/declaraci%C3%B3n-sobre-el-covid-19-demands-in-response-to-the-covid-19-crisis-f7353925d298>
 - v. Justice LA Coalition:
 - 1. City Demands: <http://justicelanow.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/COVID19LetterLAPDCityAttorney03.18.20.pdf>
 - 2. County Demands: <http://justicelanow.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/LA-Jails-COVID-19-Advocacy-Group-Letter-03.15.20.pdf>