

October 17, 2022

For the attention of:

- Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District
- Dr. George J. McKenna III, Board Member for District 1, Los Angeles Unified School District
- Dr. Adaina Brown, Local District West Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Re: Co-location with New LA Charter Negatively Impacts Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot (BHEP).

For seven years, the LAUSD has forced Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot School to share a campus with New LA Charter Elementary School, thereby unfairly depriving BHEP students of their essential learning spaces and blocking the implementation of the Pilot School plan and services offered as part of the Community School model. BHES is a school with deep ties to the neighborhoods it serves and a fierce dedication to providing a quality education to its students. BHEP is the *only* Gifted/High Ability (G/HA) Magnet in the LAUSD district that is co-located, and it is the only Gifted/High Ability Magnet with an 80% African-American student body.

We seek an end to LAUSD'S co-location of New LA Charter Elementary School or any other school on BHEP's campus. The colocation has greatly diminished the school's ability to meet students' social-emotional needs and mental health wellness, and hampered access to the academic programs that the school has been tasked with providing. LAUSD's commitment to the students of BHEP *must* take priority over the co-located school's desire to share the campus.

Co-location is hurting our students and affecting every essential program at the school, particularly those programs that ensure that students' social-emotional and mental health needs are being addressed. Students no longer have appropriate spaces and adequate times for full STEAM curriculum implementation in engineering/robotics, visual and performing arts, technology, yoga, and chess. Activities that help identify under-represented students in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program are being curtailed, the implementation of the Community School program and the Pilot School curriculum is hindered, and innovative teaching opportunities are being lost, such as the implementation of an outdoor classroom that would benefit the students health and emotional well-being.

Students on the autism spectrum with moderate to high needs in the Special Day Program have suffered even greater losses. Critical spaces and time essential for full

implementation of their program are gone, including collaboration with their general education peers who modeled age-appropriate physical and social behavior.

The state has honored BHEP as a California Distinguished School, and LAUSD approved it as a Pilot School with innovative teaching strategies. **The District must follow through with its commitment to BHEP's successful Pilot, Magnet and Community School programs by ending co-location at BHEP once and for all.**

These actions are needed from School Board/Superintendent NOW before next spring's co-location decisions:

1. The return of at least two classrooms this school year to implement critical programs and services.
2. Find a new location for New LA Charter for next school year.
3. Update interpretation of Prop 39 to align with how other California school districts have interpreted it.
4. Include Baldwin Hills Elementary in the updated definition of "Empty Space" specific to Community Schools, which are exempted from co-location.

Please respond to this letter by November 1, 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Concerned parents and community members of Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot

FACT SHEET/Essential Information:

From the beginning of our Pilot School Plan to the current development of our Community School Plan, co-location continues to impinge on the potential of BHEP to provide resources, enrich learning, and to grow its positive impact on our students and community.

What BHEP students have lost as result of colocation:

BHEP's Community School Plan and Pilot School Plan have been stunted

- Healthy Start Navigator representative (state funded program for families experiencing homelessness) lost due to lack of private space to meet with families and space to store essential items such as food and school supplies
- Expansion of Magnet Program (despite large demand and long waiting list) due to lack of space
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory robotics program - BHEP program was rejected due to lack of space
- Gardening program/outdoor education grant funding - abandoned due to lack of space
- Science lab, Performing arts room, Yoga room all lost to NewLA charter
- Dedicated Music room (it is a multi-purpose room now, serving as a teacher work room, storage space, ad-hoc meeting area)
- Growth of youth mentoring program is limited by ever-changing locations, times to accommodate lack of dedicated meeting space.

Everyday Impact:

This situation creates an inhospitable, at times unsafe learning environment.

- Three play structures, one yard, one cafeteria, two four-stalled bathrooms accommodate two schools with separate schedules. This results in:
 - Shortened time for students to eat lunch
 - Shortened time for recess and outdoor learning
 - Inappropriate ages on playground equipment, causing injuries
 - Sensory and social stress on students in Autism-specific program: Students who use the playground throughout the day must share it with large groups of children

This situation is CAUSING and HEIGHTENING tensions between Black and Brown students:

- Bullying: last year, a second grader was pushed into a bathroom stall by a child from the charter school
- Ongoing bullying/cursing/touching/hitting of first grade students by older students from the charter school during playtimes, restroom breaks
- First grade students having recurring accidents as result of avoidance of restroom breaks due to ongoing bullying from older students from the charter school.