

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that school size is an important factor in student success, and that small schools are well-planned and implemented can narrow the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have identified the benefits of small schools, as compared to large schools, including:

- Improved academic performance of students with disadvantaged socio-economic status;
- Safer environments with less violence and vandalism;
- More parent and community involvement;
- Greater teacher satisfaction and retention;
- Better attendance;
- Reduced dropout rates; and
- Higher high school and college graduation rates.

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) with existing budgetary constraints is attempting to use creative means to reduce overcrowding in public elementary, middle, and high school classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the LAUSD is in the process of transitioning to small schools that will build on the foundation of LAUSD's Small Learning Communities (SLC) policy and accelerate progress toward a personalized learning environment for all LAUSD students; and

WHEREAS, the Small Schools Policy will represent a cultural shift for the LAUSD that will require strong and decisive leadership and purposeful collaboration to ensure instructional success; and

WHEREAS, a Small School be defined as a unique, personalized learning environment with its own County District School (CDS) code, administration, staff, budget, contiguous space, responsibility for all aspects of its educational program, and no more than 500 students (400 or fewer in middle schools); and

WHEREAS, Small Schools, as defined by LAUSD will offer a rigorous, relevant, and personalized educational program evaluated by multiple measures to ensure that every student is college-prepared and career-ready;

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WHEREAS, by 2020 short-term and long-term benchmarks, LAUSD will be transformed into a district of Small Schools; and
WHEREAS, existing large schools (1,000 students or more) will be transformed into campuses of multiple Small Schools; and

WHEREAS, Small Schools may share a site with other Small Schools; and


WHEREAS, the LAUSD will direct newly constructed K-12 grade schools to be configured as individual Small Schools of 500 or fewer students.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2007-2008 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of the proposed Los Angeles School Board's Small School Policy concerning the transformation of existing large schools into a campus of multiple Small Schools.

PRESENTED BY:

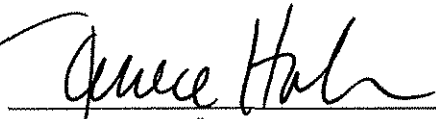



ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:





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