

June 1, 2019



Beth Kauffman  
Associate Superintendent  
Division on Special Education  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 South Beaudry Ave, 17th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Beth.kauffman@lausd.net

Dear Ms. Kauffman,

Over the past several years, the partnership between the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD”) and charter schools in the area of special education has become an extraordinary model in innovation and collaboration. On behalf of the charter schools participating in the Charter Operated Program, Option 3 (“COP3”), I am writing to express our gratitude for this ongoing collaboration.

Since its implementation, COP3 has led to the development of a local charter school special education infrastructure which has enabled participating charter schools to provide an expanded range of innovative and high-quality special education services and to increase the number and range of students with disabilities that they serve. The percentage of students with disabilities served by the 166 participating charter schools has continued to increase, comprising 11.4% of total enrollment in 2018-19. The relative proportion of students with low incidence disabilities has also grown, comprising approximately 2% of total enrollment in 2018-19 even as new schools continue to join. This data is a testament to the strength of the partnership and demonstrates that charter school autonomy in special education leads to an increase in both the numbers and the range of disabilities represented.

Nevertheless, we recognize that special education arrangements within the LAUSD SELPA are subject to change. For this reason, charter schools must take steps necessary to preserve their autonomy and infrastructure by maintaining the ability to exit the SELPA should such action be in the best interest of the charter schools and their students.

Please accept this letter as notification that the undersigned charter schools reserve the right to exit the LAUSD SELPA effective July 1, 2020.

Please note that this notice is not binding upon the undersigned charter schools. If, in consideration of all options, the charter schools find that it is not in the best interest of their students to exit the SELPA, they will remain with the LAUSD SELPA for the 2020-21 academic year.

We look forward to ongoing engagement and collaboration.

Yvette King-Berg  
Executive Council Board Member  
LAUSD Charter Operated Programs, Option 3  
Executive Director, YPI Charter Schools

cc: Austin Beutner, Superintendent  
Jose Cole-Gutierrez, Charter Schools Division, LAUSD  
Members of the LAUSD Board of Education  
Alexa Slater, California Department of Education

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