



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 27, 2025

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

YPICS

Professional Development

January 6-7, 2025

Academic:

The YPICS academic focus for second semester: How to use effective assessments to drive strong academic performance out comes? All instructional staff rotated through these topic areas. Each School Coordinator of Instruction led a workshop chosen from the list of sessions they each attended in Riverside this fall at the California Assessment Conference. Workshop descriptions are listed below:

Assessing Assessment: Evaluating the Quality of Performance Tasks - Performance assessment provides insight into the progress students are making toward mastering deeper learning competencies. This insight is critical for teachers to ensure meaningful learning, and for students to increase agency and ownership of learning. This session will introduce a tool based on high quality performance assessment criteria to help educators conduct a review of potential assessment tasks.

Goodbye Drills. Hello Skills: Embedding CAASPP Prep into Instruction - This session will focus on helping educators harness the often-underutilized power of CAASPP tools such as: Content Explorer (question stems), Annotated Response Tool, and Range Achievement Level Descriptors to support teachers as they prepare students throughout the year for the rigor and complexity of the ELA summative exam.

Interim Assessments 101 - This session will focus on the basics of interim assessments, including the free interim assessments for ELA, math, ELPAC and Science developed by the California Department of Education.

Day 2- The following workshops were provided by LACOE Instructional Staff:

- Zero to Hero: Using CAASPP ELA Performance Task WER Data
- Introduction to the CA Science Test and Science Interim Assessments
- Secondary Single Subject Math Teachers

All staff participated in the MTSS workshop which reviewed, policies, procedures, protocols. YPICS looks forward to better outcomes with scholars as we track effective and consistent implementation among all three schools.

School Climate and Culture:

The YPICS School Climate and Culture staff focused on Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues on January 6th and 7th.

School Community & Operations:

School Community and the Operations Teams focused on reviewing, adjusting goals, and revising plans based on Youth Truth, and discipline data for second semester.

School Closures and Reopening:

In order to keep staff and students from the extreme LA fires and windy weather conditions, YPICS closed schools on January 8th-January 10, 2025. Meals were served and learning recovery activities were provided remotely by teachers and staff on Friday, January 10, 2023.

Supporting Our Community Through Fire Recovery

On behalf of YPICS, we are deeply saddened by the unimaginable loss and suffering caused by these historic fires. Our hearts go out to all who have lost loved ones, friends, homes, or cherished pets. The pain you are experiencing is profound, and we stand in solidarity with you during this challenging time.

We want to acknowledge our staff, students, and community for being a shining example of the strength, resilience, and dedication that embody the YPICS way. Amid adversity, you showed up with compassion and care, creating a safe and supportive environment for our students. We also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our executive administrators, directors, coordinators, teachers, tutors, and staff for their clear communication and proactive efforts. Their dedication to ensuring you had the resources and guidance needed to navigate over the three days successfully was evident, and it played a critical role in fostering a thriving environment for our scholars.

As we move forward together, I am encouraged by our shared focus on first taking care of ourselves and supporting one another. Please continue to wellness checks with each other. While challenges remain, our collective strength ensures that our schools continue to be a source of hope and stability for students, staff, and families alike.

Contact Insurance and FEMA:

We encourage anyone impacted to contact their Insurance Company and FEMA as soon as possible. With the amount of claims, the wait time could be tremendous. FEMA has a program called Individual Assistance that is for small business owners and families, to help with immediate recovery needs. According to the FEMA website, this has been activated for LA county. Here is the Cal OES Individual Assistance page if you are interested in sharing it with families of students and staff.

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/interagency-recovery-coordination/individual-assistance/>

Additional Resources:

- **California Department of Insurance:** If you have been affected by the wildfires you can contact the California Department of Insurance with your insurance questions at **800-927-4357** or **insurance.ca.gov**.
- **LA County Assessor: “Misfortune and Calamity” Property Tax Relief-** Property damaged or destroyed by the windstorms or wildfires may qualify for temporary property tax relief through the *Misfortune and Calamity* program.
- **FEMA-** For more information and to download the claim form (**ADS-820**), visit **assessor.lacounty.gov/tax-relief/disaster-relief** or call **(213) 974-3211**.
- FEMA Financial support for those impacted, information will be updated here over the next few days:
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

Your commitment to our students and community is deeply appreciated. Years from now, we will reflect on how we treated one another and how we were treated during these historic fires in LA County. Your compassion and dedication in serving our families will not be forgotten.

Notification of Displaced Students

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, we are committed to identifying and supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness. Homelessness is defined as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. If you are aware of any students who have been displaced due to the fires, please reach out to your school counselor, who serves as our Homeless Liaison. Together, we can ensure that these students receive the support and resources they need during this challenging time.

Helpful Links and Resources

We encourage anyone in need of assistance to reach out to local resources and community organizations providing aid. For families with students, our school counselors and Homeless Liaisons are here with essential support services, including housing, meals, and emotional care.

The following are additional resources

- **Media and Updates**
 - [CalFire Updates](#)
 - [WatchDuty](#): Fire-tracking App/Site
 - [LA Times Fire Updates](#)
 - [LAist / KPCC Updates](#)
 - LA [Road Closures](#)
 - LA County Updates: ready.lacounty.gov
 - LA County Emergency updates: lacounty.gov/emergency
 - Air Quality: <https://www.airnow.gov/>
 - [LAUSD School Closures](#)
- **Important Phone Numbers**
 - Southern CA Edison: 800-611-1911
 - LADWP: 800-342-5397
 - FEMA support for those impacted: 1-800-621-FEMA
- **Power Outages**
 - If you are a **Southern California Edison** customer and need to report a power outage, visit <https://www.sce.com/outage-center/report-an-outage> or call 800-611-1911. To check the status of current outages, visit: <https://www.sce.com/outage-center/check-outage-status>
 - **Department of Water & Power** customers can report power outages <https://shorturl.at/WTqHV> or call 800-342-5397. To check the status of current outages, visit: <https://www.ladwp.com/outages/power-outage-map>
 - **Tips for preparing for and responding to power outages:** <https://ready.lacounty.gov/power-outage/>

This is a time for unity and compassion as we come together to support those who have lost loved ones, homes, or livelihoods. Let us stand together in strength and resilience, ensuring that no member of our community faces this recovery alone.

Safe and Accessible to All California Residents Regardless of Immigration Status

We understand that recent discussions about immigration policies may have raised concerns within our community regarding the safety and educational access of children. I want to reassure you that every child in California has the right to a free public education, regardless of their immigration status.

In line with California Assembly Bill 699 (AB 699), which ensures critical protections for students, the YPICS Board of Trustees approved a policy in June 2018, to ensure all YPI Charter schools stay safe and accessible to every California resident, no matter their immigration status. This policy also limits assistance with immigration enforcement, showing our strong commitment to keeping schools' inclusive spaces where kids can learn and thrive without fear.

AB 699 protects students from discrimination based on immigration status, ensures the confidentiality of student information, and requires schools to create an environment free from bullying and harassment. Our policy is built on these values and reflects our promise to make sure every student and family feels welcome and supported.

State

Excerpts from New Laws for 2025

From School Services of California

Posted January 15, 2025

Significant bills affecting local educational agencies (LEAs) that officially went into effect on January 1, 2025:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1858 (Ward, D-San Diego) prohibits an LEA from conducting high-intensity active shooter drills and requires a trauma-informed approach to the design and execution of any drill.
- AB 1955 (Ward) prohibits LEAs from requiring school employees to disclose any information related to a pupil's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to any other person without the pupil's consent, unless otherwise required by state or federal law.
- AB 2134 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) requires an LEA, state special school, or community college district (CCD) to accept the transfer of sick leave for a certificated or classified employee at any time during their employment and requires certificated employee time to be transferred in days, rather than hours.
- AB 2165 (Reyes, D-Colton) requires that LEAs, prior to exempting a student from the requirement to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a California Dream Act Application, provide students specified information, including the consequences of not completing those applications.
- AB 2534 (Flora, R-Ripon) requires applicants for a certificated position to provide a complete list of every LEA where the applicant has previously worked and requires LEAs considering the applicant to inquire with previous employers whether the applicant was the subject of egregious misconduct complaints, investigations, or discipline

- AB 2565 (McCarty, D-Sacramento) requires, contingent upon an appropriation, an LEA making an addition, alteration, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or retrofit of a school building to install interior locks on each door of any room with an occupancy of five or more persons in that school building
- AB 2711 (Ramos, D-Highland) prohibits the suspension of students enrolled in grades K-12 who voluntarily disclose their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, an intoxicant of any kind, or tobacco in order to seek help through services or supports
- Senate Bill (SB) 897 (Newman, D-Fullerton) makes the District of Choice (DOC) program permanent, prevents DOCs from discriminating based on various student characteristics, requires DOCs to accept transfers for foster youth and homeless children, allows districts with a qualified or negative budget status to limit student transfers to DOCs, and requires DOC program requirements to be subject to annual audit
- SB 937 (Wiener, D-San Francisco) prohibits a local government from requiring payment of fees or charges for public improvements or facilities on a designated residential development project before the development receives a certificate of occupancy
- SB 1263 (Newman) requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to convene a workgroup to assess the current design and implementation of the teacher performance assessment and report recommendations to the CTC by March 1, 2025
- SB 1288 (Becker, D-Menlo Park) requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a working group on artificial intelligence (AI), and requires that working group to develop expanded guidance and a model policy on AI for use by LEAs

There are also a number of measures that Governor Newsom signed that became statute on January 1, 2025, but their provisions or requirements do not take effect until a later date.

- AB 938 (Muratsuchi) requires LEAs to complete the to-be-updated Form J-90 for classified and certificated staff assigned to schools by January 31, 2026, and annually thereafter
- AB 1913 (Addis, D-Morro Bay) requires LEAs and state special schools to include child abuse prevention in the annual mandated reporter training requirement for LEA employees beginning July 1, 2025
- AB 1997 (McKinnor, D-Inglewood) amends key provisions of the Teachers' Retirement Law related to creditable compensation, creditable service, and the reporting of compensation, effective upon a date determined by the California State Teachers' Retirement System board, no later than July 1, 2027
- AB 2316 (Gabriel, D-Encino) prohibits, beginning December 31, 2027, LEAs from offering, selling, or otherwise providing any food or beverages containing the following food dye additives: Blue 1, Blue 2, Green 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, and Yellow 6
- AB 2887 (Maienschein, D-San Diego) requires LEAs, by July 1, 2025, to add to their comprehensive school safety plan procedures to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening medical emergency while on school grounds
- AB 2968 (Connolly, D-San Rafael) requires, commencing with 2026-27, LEAs in high fire severity zones to include in their comprehensive school safety plan procedures related to severe fires, including a communication, refuge, and evacuation plan

- AB 2999 (Schiavo, D-San Fernando Valley) encourages LEAs to develop a homework policy for all grades by the start of the 2027-28 school year, formally adopt a final homework policy by the start of the 2028-29 school year, and update the policy at least once every five years
- AB 3216 (Hoover, R-Folsom) requires, by July 1, 2026, an LEA governing board to adopt, and update every five years, a policy to limit or prohibit student use of smartphones while at school or under the supervision and control of school employees
- SB 98 (Portantino) requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to, by January 1, 2026, submit a report to the Legislature on the effects of changing the pupil count methodology of the Local Control Funding Formula from average daily attendance to enrollment
- SB 445 (Portantino) requires the California Department of Education (CDE), by January 1, 2027, to translate the Individualized Education Program template developed by the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence into the top ten most commonly spoken languages used across the state other than English
- SB 1248 (Hurtado, D-Sanger) requires, by July 1, 2026, each LEA in the state to develop, implement, and annually review extreme weather protocols related to student physical activities outdoors
- SB 1315 (Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera) requires the CDE to, by March 1, 2025, provide a report on the number and types of reports that LEAs are required to annually submit
- SB 1318 (Wahab, D-Silicon Valley) requires LEAs to update their suicide prevention policies to include crisis intervention protocols on or after July 1, 2026

Some measures, such as urgency bills, took effect immediately upon Governor Newsom's signature. The only significant bill that fell into that category last year was AB 2927 (McCarty), which adds a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement beginning with the 2030-31 school year and requires high schools to offer a one-semester course in personal finance beginning with the 2027-28 school year.

Egregious Misconduct Disclosure

As of January 1, 2025, Assembly Bill (AB) 2534 requires all public-school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and state special schools in California to obtain information regarding applicants' prior egregious misconduct directly from their previous educational employers.

As part of the hiring process for certificated staff, applicants must provide a comprehensive list of their former educational (LEA) employers. A misconduct inquiry form is sent to each listed employer, and applicants are not permitted to begin work until all forms have been returned and reviewed. This requirement is in addition to existing pre-employment protocols.

Ms. Marshall, Ms. King-Berg, and with the support of YMC, Inc, have updated the organization's employee handbook to comply with this requirement. Additionally, the same team will update forms to facilitate implementing procedures to support this new legislation. Response times for these forms will largely depend on the recipients, which may vary and could impact overall processing timelines for certificated hires.

