



School Change News

MAKING CHANGE WORK FOR OUR
STUDENTS AND OUR SCHOOLS

6 truths about school change and the giveaway motion

The school giveaway motion passed by the LAUSD Board in August has created uncertainty around the District—especially at the 12 “focus” sites selected to be opened for proposals this year. Here are a few truths about school change and the giveaway motion.

1. UTLA will fight the takeover of any school by an outside operator.

On November 16, we will know which sites have been targeted by outside operators, and we will roll out a coordinated campaign of member actions and parent outreach to support these schools.

2. UTLA remains opposed to the school giveaway motion.

It starts LAUSD down the unwelcome road of giving away public schools to unproven outside entities instead of providing schools with the resources and support to improve. UTLA continues to research whether the motion is legal. That said, the potential impact of the motion is so great that we cannot sit on the sidelines while the process plays out, and UTLA is actively supporting school teams as they create proposals to run their own schools.

3. Meaningful school change must come from within.

School teams, with teachers in the lead, can create customized reform plans that speak to the needs of their students in ways that no outside organization or District bureaucracy can.

4. If school proposals are given proper consideration, this motion could help free schools from top-down management in favor of site-driven decisions.

Right now, many of the 12 focus schools are developing proposals for their schools. These plans may involve allowing teachers and other school stakeholders to make decisions on curriculum, staffing, budget, and more in order to improve student learning. If their plans are accepted, these schools could be largely freed from LAUSD and local District mandates, which many educators feel waste time and resources and are not aligned with their students’ needs.

5. UTLA embraced new visions of school reform years before this motion passed.

Too often the union is portrayed as an obstacle to reform, but the reality is that UTLA has taken the lead on a number of reform models already in our schools, including the Pilot schools model, iDesign schools, and ESBMM (Expanded School-Based Management Model), all of which give schools charter-like freedoms while remaining within LAUSD.

6. PI 3+ schools not on the “focus” list this year need support and assistance too.

Each year new schools will be added to the list, so it would benefit all PI schools to start working on a school change plan now. While UTLA’s top priority right now is the 12 focus schools, we have resources and support for all PI 3+ schools.

Interested in
having a School
Change
deployment
team visit
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Making effective change demands the engagement of the key stakeholders within the school community