

Coffee with the Superintendent
Miguel Contreras LC
Questions & Answers

Participant	Question	Answer
	<p>How can I know about my son's school; the level it is in?</p> <p><i>¿Cómo puedo saber de la escuela que asiste mi hijo, en qué nivel se encuentra?</i></p>	<p>The California Dashboard has information about schools and may be accessed on the internet at: https://www.caschooldashboard.org</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to control drug use in the school 2. How can we know who provides (drugs) to the students <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Como controlar el uso de drogas en la escuela</i> 2. <i>Cómo saber quiénes proveen (drogas) a los estudiantes</i> 	<p>School administrators do the best they can to respond to reports of drug distribution and drug use on campus.</p>
	<p>Thank you for doing this. My child's school only has a nurse on the premises one day a week. Kids get sick or hurt on those other days, and are left to their own devices. My child has had bad injuries, bleeding, etc. that an aide has basically told him to just sit down (and didn't even call us). Is there any plan to make full-time nurses mandatory at LAUSD schools? Thank you.</p> <p><i>Gracias por hacer esto. La escuela de mi hijo solo tiene una enfermera en el local un día a la semana. Los niños se enferman o golpean en esos otros días y se los deja solos. Mi hijo ha tenido lesiones graves, sangrado, etc., que un asistente básicamente le ha dicho que se siente (y ni siquiera nos llamó). ¿Hay algún plan para hacer que las enfermeras de tiempo completo sean obligatorias en las escuelas del LAUSD? Gracias.</i></p>	<p>Budgetary decisions are made at school sites. Each school is unique and has its own needs. Purchasing a full-time nurse is based on the funds available and budgetary decisions made at each school site.</p>
	<p>What can we do when a teacher does not apply him/herself?</p>	<p>Administrators are aware of action steps to support their instructional staff. Communication is key to addressing concerns and resolving issues.</p>

	<p><i>Profesor que no se aplican, ¿qué debemos hacer?</i></p>	
	<p>What is the best option, for my child to go to community college for the first two years, or go to university, because my son is confused, he does not know whether to go to college or university.</p> <p><i>Cuál es la mejor opción, que mi niño vaya al colegio comunitario los primeros dos años, o ir a la universidad, porque mi hijo está confundido, no sabe si ir al colegio o a la universidad.</i></p>	<p>That decision is up to your son and your family. There are many advantages to each path. One suggestion would be to have you and your son visit the prospective schools, if possible, and/or communicate with college and university staff to ask the questions you may have.</p>
	<p>When you say that the incident is at the discretion of the principal, does the district participate in the plan or do you just wait for the administration's report? I need to know if LAUSD is directly involved with behavior issues.</p> <p><i>Cuando usted dice que el incidente queda a discreción del director/directora, ¿el distrito participa en el plan o solo espera el reporte de la administración? Necesito saber si LAUSD se involucra directamente con el área de comportamiento.</i></p>	<p>Pending</p>
	<p>Why do students scramble for kindergarten and first and so on for the other grades? Why when they register children have no control, just to register those who will occupy the space and leave or those who will not have a classroom with their own degree, go elsewhere and not say is that there is no Master then can not go to another (school) closer because he says it does not belong to him and the problem for one is that the one that belongs to him does not have space. I think that's not right for us as parents, we should have options in other schools and not just by area.</p> <p><i>Por qué revuelven a los estudiantes por decir kínder y primero y así los otros grados? Por qué cuando van a inscribir a los niños no tienen control, para solo inscribir los que van a ocupar el espacio y así dejan o</i></p>	<p>Pending</p>

	<p><i>los que no van a tener salón con su propio grado, ir a otro lado y no decir es que no hay maestro pues no puede ir a otra (escuela) más cerca pues dice no le pertenece y el problema para uno es que la que le pertenece no tiene espacio. Pienso que eso no está bien para nosotros de padres, debemos tener opciones en otras escuelas y no solo por área.</i></p>	
	<p>My eighth grade student does not want to continue in school because he knows he does not achieve the potential to graduate and he has lost interest in school. Where can I find help?</p> <p><i>Tengo mi estudiante de octavo grado y él no quiere seguir en la escuela porque sabe que no logro el potencial para graduarse y él ha perdido el interés en la escuela. ¿Dónde me pueden ayudar?</i></p>	<p>School administrators and staff can assist you. Some schools have counselors and they are also helpful. A suggestion can be to communicate the concerns of your child and your concerns with school staff. Additionally, learning about various paths to college, trade school, and the university may be helpful. There are many cases where students struggle in middle school, but later do well in high school as students learn to be more organized and resourceful, and tap into support systems.</p>
	<p>Can an immigrant child graduate from high school and continue his studies at the university?</p> <p><i>¿Puede un niño inmigrante graduarse de high school y seguir estudiando en la universidad?</i></p>	<p>Yes, an immigrant student may graduate from high school and continue his/her education at the college/university level. A suggestion is for you and your child to learn about the different systems of higher education and the admission requirements (the requirements for community colleges are different from UC, state, and private universities. There is a variety of free information on the internet, you may want to enter the key words: <i>four systems of higher education.</i></p>
	<p>It would be good, Mr. Superintendent, to have more security inside and around our schools since this is a very dangerous and conflictive area.</p> <p><i>Sería bueno, señor superintendente, poner más seguridad dentro y al entorno de nuestras escuelas puesto que aquí es una área muy peligrosa y conflictiva.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. Safety is a priority.</p>
	<p>My son is in high school and he took college classes. Do those credits count for when he enters school?</p> <p><i>Mi hijo está en high school y tomó clases de colegio. ¿Esos créditos cuentan para cuando entre al colegio?</i></p>	<p>There are a variety of college courses that students in middle and high school may take, some offer students opportunities to earn college credit. To be absolutely sure about the type of credit he has earned, please meet with his counselor to review his transcript and credits.</p>

	<p>My daughter is a newcomer and she brings the customs of her country. She is very distracted, in the class she talks a lot with the girls. How can you help me?</p> <p><i>Mi hija es nueva y ella trae las costumbres de su país. Es muy distraída, en la clase platica mucho con las niñas. ¿Cómo me pueden ayudar?</i></p>	<p>We welcome you and your children. In regards to your concern, something that may help is to have your daughter carry a journal or paper where she can write her key ideas to help her focus in class. Another idea is to support her by showing her how to participate in class discussions and engage in her learning. Having daily talks with her about her learning and how she is doing overall may also help her feel supported and committed to focusing in class. Additionally, praising her efforts and celebrating her improvement may also encourage her to do well.</p>
	<p>Please, make sure children are kept off the heat (hot weather) during physical education..</p> <p><i>Por favor que no pongan a los niños en el calor en física. Aquí está sucediendo que ponen a los niños en el calor y no hace nada la maestra de física.</i></p>	<p>Safety and the well-being of students is a priority. Thank you for your comment.</p>
	<p>Por qué meter escuelas chárter junto con escuelas públicas.</p>	<p>Proposition 39, introduced in the November 2000 ballot, amended California <i>Education Code (EC)</i> Section 47614, with the intent that public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils, including those in charter schools. <i>EC</i> Section 47614 requires that school districts make available, to all charter schools operating in their school district with projections of at least 80 units of average daily attendance (ADA), facilities that will sufficiently accommodate all of the charter’s in-district students, and that facilities be “reasonably equivalent” to other classrooms, buildings, or facilities in the district.</p>
	<p>We need more staff to work with respect and kindness in the entrance as in the office.</p> <p><i>Necesitamos más personal para que trabajen con respeto y amabilidad en la entrada como en la oficina. (Virgil Middle School)</i></p>	<p>Providing a welcoming environment is very important. We have invested time in professional development on this topic and will continue to work collaboratively to promote a welcoming environment.</p>
	<p>Why is there a huge disconnection between the strategies and teaching pedagogies taught for teachers at child development courses (such as LACC) and what is applied/allowed to practice in elementary schools?</p> <p><i>¿Por qué hay una gran desconexión entre las estrategias y las pedagogías</i></p>	<p>Pending</p>

	<i>de enseñanza que se enseñan a los maestros en los cursos de desarrollo infantil (como LACC) y qué se aplica / se permite practicar en las escuelas de educación primaria?</i>	
	Why did more than 10 teachers leave, including staff and coordinators? (from Charles H. Kim) <i>¿Por qué se fueron más de 10 maestros, incluido el personal y los coordinadores? (de Charles H. Kim)</i>	Teachers and staff leave school sites for various reasons. At times schools have a high number of teachers and staff.
	Are students safe inside the school? <i>¿Están los estudiantes seguros dentro de la escuela?</i>	Safety is a top priority and school administrators do everything possible to have a safe environment.
	What can we do about school safety? <i>¿Qué podemos hacer con la seguridad para las escuelas?</i>	Schools have school safety plan and systems in place to foster a safe learning environment.
	Can more information, being specific, be given when the school sends out an emergency message by phone, given to parents who return the call to the school. At a minimum, parents want notification if someone is on campus that does not belong there. <i>¿Se puede dar más información, específica, cuando la escuela envía un mensaje de emergencia por teléfono a los padres que devuelven la llamada a la escuela? Como mínimo, los padres desean notificación si alguien está en el campus que no pertenece allí.</i>	Information that is disseminated during an emergency needs to be correct and provided in a timely manner. Sometimes investigations regarding an emergency situation take time. In some emergencies other departments need to be involved, such as the police department. The information immediately disseminated during an emergency does not always include all of the details because information still needs to be gathered or information needs to remain confidential due to safety reasons. In any case, district staff work as fast as they can to provide parents and families accurate information during an emergency.
	It's a uniform required for new students? How many counselors are in the school? <i>¿Se requiere que los alumnos nuevos vistan uniforme? ¿Cuántos consejeros hay en la escuela?</i>	Schools follow decision-making procedures to decide if their campus will have a school uniform policy. The number of school counselors varies from school to school. Schools make decisions to purchase counselors based on their available budget and students' needs.
24th Street	I am concerned regarding my child going to the restroom. The teachers tell their students to put a clip on red in order to go to the restroom. My child doesn't want to go to the restroom now and is afraid to ask to go. The teacher needs to renew their vows; are teachers losing their interest in teaching the children?!!!	Consider discussing this issue with your child's teacher and/or a school administrator.

	<p><i>Me preocupa que mi hijo vaya al baño. Los profesores les dicen a sus alumnos que pongan un clip en rojo para ir al baño. Mi hijo no quiere ir al baño ahora y tiene miedo de pedir ir. El maestro necesita renovar sus votos; ¿Los maestros están perdiendo el interés en enseñar a los niños?</i></p>	
Carver MS	<p>-I am a volunteer in the Parent Center. What can I do do so that the parents in charge of the Center give us information to all of us in general, not just the ones closest to them? For me it is discrimination. If we all work the same voluntarily.</p> <p>-When a child has an accident at school, what can the parent do?</p> <p><i>-Yo trabajo voluntariamente en el Centro de Padres. Cómo podría hacer para que las encargadas del Centro de Padres nos den información a todas en general, no solo a las más cercanas a ellas. Para mi es discriminación. Si todas trabajamos igual voluntariamente. -¿Cuándo un niño tiene un accidente en la escuela, que puede hacer el padre/madre?</i></p>	<p>Community Representatives are district employees. Part of their roles is to share information at their schools and work with parents/families.</p> <p>School staff try their best to communicate with parents using the contact information they have when a student has an accident at school. Depending on the type of accident and the severity, action steps are recommended/taken.</p>
	<p>How do you treat a disruptive child in class that is taking away from other children learning? <i>¿Cómo se trata con un niño que interrumpe en clase y está afectando el aprendizaje de los otros niños?</i></p>	<p>District teachers and staff are encouraged to use positive behavioral interventions and supports. There are strategies that can be used by the teachers and staff to help redirect the behavior of a disruptive student. Sometimes progress takes time. We are responsible for offering support to all students.</p>
Virgil Middle School	<p>We need more staff in the physical education area because there are always fights with the students.</p> <p><i>Necesitamos más personal en el área de educación física porque siempre hay peleas con los estudiantes.</i></p>	<p>Supervision is an important part of fostering a safe school environment. An idea may be to discuss this concern with school staff to generate ideas to increase supervision.</p>
	<p>Has LAUSD considered immersion programs in English to move the child learning English faster. <i>¿Ha considerado LAUSD programas de inmersión en inglés para que el niño que está aprendiendo inglés lo haga más rápido?</i></p>	<p>LAUSD does offer “Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program as one of the instructional programs for English Learners.</p>

	<p>Do you make sure all students get health shots before they go to school?</p> <p><i>¿Se aseguran que todos los estudiantes reciban sus vacunas antes de ir a la escuela?</i></p>	<p>Children must have required immunizations before they can attend school in California. Parent/Guardian must present their child's Immunization Record to the School staff as proof of immunization prior to admission By The California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations.</p>
	<p>How is technology controlled in schools? Since everything that happens, more bad than good, they upload it to social networks.</p> <p><i>¿Cómo se controla la tecnología en las escuelas? Ya que todo lo que pasa, más malo que bueno lo suben a las redes sociales.</i></p>	<p>The uses of technology in schools are monitored by all the systems in place, which do not allow unwelcome users. The District's firewalls have "ports" that can be open to let specific types of traffic through, or closed to stop traffic. The Firewall is also used to block access on the District's network to specific computers or services on the internet that make the District vulnerable to risks.</p>
24th Street	<p>Teachers scream at the children, especially from 2nd grade; they scream at them when students don't know something; they don't have patience. When it is cold outside, they leave them in the yard. I told the staff is we could have the students in the auditorium because children are coughing; they said No. When it rains, they take them outside to get their lunch, the children are walking in the rain to the auditorium, and children get wet.</p> <p><i>Los maestros les gritan a los niños, especialmente desde segundo grado; les gritan cuando los estudiantes no saben algo; ellos no tienen paciencia Cuando hace frío afuera, los dejan en el patio. Le dije al personal que podíamos tener a los estudiantes en el auditorio porque los niños están tosiendo; dijeron que no. Cuando llueve, los llevan afuera para almorzar, los niños caminan bajo la lluvia hasta el auditorio y los niños se mojan.</i></p>	<p>A suggestion is to have a conversation with your child's teacher regarding the impact/outcomes of these actions if he/she is one of the teachers engaging in the behavior you have described. Another suggestion is to meet with a school administrator to discuss your concerns.</p>
24th Street	<p>Why are children punished because they want to go to the restroom. They have them change their color chart. Why do they not let the kids inside the class when it is raining, and when it is hot, they have them sit down on the floor.</p> <p>I don't like that teachers scream a lot to the children that they are going to</p>	<p>Consider discussing these issues with your child's teacher and a school administrator.</p>

	<p>bench them forever or when there is a bully in school being mean to my child. <i>¿Por qué se castiga a los niños porque quieren ir al baño? Les hacen cambiar su carta de colores.</i> <i>¿Por qué no dejan a los niños dentro de la clase cuando llueve, y cuando hace calor los obligan a sentarse en el piso? No me gusta que los maestros les griten mucho a los niños que los van a juzgar para siempre o cuando hay un matón en la escuela que es malo para mi hijo.</i></p>	
	<p>The question is why do you allow another school like charter to be installed at John Liechty High School? <i>La pregunta es por qué permiten que otra escuela como la chárter se instale en la secundaria John Liechty</i></p>	<p>Proposition 39, introduced in the November 2000 ballot, amended California <i>Education Code (EC)</i> Section 47614, with the intent that public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils, including those in charter schools. <i>EC</i> Section 47614 requires that school districts make available, to all charter schools operating in their school district with projections of at least 80 units of average daily attendance (ADA), facilities that will sufficiently accommodate all of the charter’s in-district students, and that facilities be “reasonably equivalent” to other classrooms, buildings, or facilities in the district.</p>
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<p>Why is Special Education an inclusion program? There are children who learn faster and get behind in a classroom with children with many (bad) behaviors. <i>¿Cómo hacer que Educación Especial no sea generalizada? Hay niños que aprenden más rápido y los atrasan estando en un salón con niños con muchos (malos) comportamientos.</i></p>	<p>The least restrictive environment (LRE) is part of the federal law known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A student’s placement must be in the least restrictive environment (LRE). This means children with disabilities are educated with non disabled children to the maximum extent appropriate. Outcome 7 of the Modified Consent Decree (MCD) requires that students with moderate to severe disabilities have access to general education classes for an average of 12% of the instructional day and during breaks, recess, and school-wide activities.</p>
	<p>A parent shared this concern. Mom- Son, I’ll go to your school to a meeting today. Son- Why, nobody will show up! Mom- Why are you saying that? Son- Because parents do not CARE!</p>	<p>A suggestion is to have conversations with the child to listen to his concerns and assure him that parents care.</p>

	<p>Concern!!!</p> <p><i>Una madre compartió esta preocupación: Mamá: Hijo, iré a tu escuela a una reunión hoy. Hijo- ¡Por qué, nadie aparecerá! Mamá- ¿Por qué estás diciendo eso? Hijo- ¡Porque a los padres no les importa! ¡¡¡Preocupación!!!</i></p>	
Leo Politi	<p>Talk with the teachers of all the TK children. Teach them as much as possible because the first 5 years are the ones in which they learn more.</p> <p><i>Hablar con los maestros. Que todos los niños de TK . Enseñarles lo más que se pueda porque son los primeros 5 años en los que ellos aprenden más.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. District and school staff work with teachers at all grade levels and emphasize the importance of meaningful instruction.</p>
	<p>What is the percentage of children with special needs who are reclassifying and what is being done so that this percentage goes up? Children with autism need those tests to be presented differently. They understand it but they cannot explain it. They have the same opportunities as everyone.</p> <p><i>¿Cuál es el porcentaje de niños con necesidades especiales que están reclasificando y que están haciendo para que ese porcentaje suba? Los niños con autismo necesitan que esos exámenes sean presentados de diferente manera. Ellos lo entienden pero no lo pueden explicar. Ellos tienen las mismas oportunidades que todos.</i></p>	<p>The current percentage of children with Special needs that have reclassified is 11.4%. The district provides alternative ways to assist students identified by IEP teams as needing an alternate English Language proficiency assessment in lieu of participation in all or part of the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). The assessment used now is the Ventura County Comprehensive Alternate Language Proficiency Survey (VCCALPS).</p>
Sheyla Menzie	<p>Dear Mr. Martinez, I have been an Alexander Science Center School parent since the time the school open its doors to the community. I wish to know , as our local superintendent, how can you support ASCS parents who have been harassed, ignored, pushed away by the administration and other school staff when questioning the school data. How</p>	<p>Pending</p>

	<p>can you support us so that we can work together (parents as partners as noted by the District) so that our numbers increase and we work towards the achievement gap, EL Reclassification and low academic data.</p> <p><i>Estimado Sr. Martinez,</i> <i>He sido un padre de Alexander Science Center School desde el momento en que la escuela abre sus puertas a la comunidad. Deseo saber, como nuestro superintendente local, cómo pueden apoyar a los padres de ASCS que han sido hostigados, ignorados, rechazados por la administración y otro personal escolar al cuestionar los datos escolares. ¿Cómo pueden apoyarnos para que podamos trabajar juntos (los padres como socios según lo observado por el Distrito) para que aumenten nuestros números, trabajamos en la brecha de rendimiento, Reclassificación EL y baja información académica.</i></p>	
	<p>How do we make sure: GATE testing- better communication to let parents know when tests are administered.</p> <p>How we get better data gathering on why students absent or struggling at our school to better support them.</p> <p>How do we make sure that programs that work don't get diluted i.e. parents asking for less work@ Downtown Magnet IB Program.</p> <p><i>¿Cómo nos aseguramos de que: Prueba GATE: mejor comunicación para que los padres sepan cuándo se administran las pruebas. Cómo conseguimos una mejor recopilación de datos sobre por qué los estudiantes ausentes o que tienen dificultad para avanzar en nuestra escuela para apoyarlos mejor. ¿Cómo nos aseguramos de que los programas que funcionan no se diluyan, es decir, que los padres soliciten menos trabajo @ Downtown Magnet IB Programme?</i></p>	<p>Parents can request that such information, like testing schedules be disseminated in various forms. It may be posted on school websites, sent home and posted on campuses.</p> <p>In an effort to find the root cause of both issues, student lack of academic progress and student absenteeism can be identified by reviewing school records and identifying patterns of behavior. Once those patterns have been identified, the task would be to create and implement an intervention that best fits the school's needs.</p> <p>The school needs to share the "Vision and Mission" alongside with the academic expectations for all the students.</p>

	<p>How do you prevent political discussion in Elementary school by teacher? Or the teacher has the right to tell their opinion? Why is LAUSD going down on performance compared to other cities?</p> <p><i>¿Cómo se previene la discusión política en la escuela primaria por parte del docente? ¿O el maestro tiene derecho a decir su opinión? ¿Por qué el LAUSD está bajando en rendimiento comparado con otras ciudades?</i></p>	<p>Pending</p>
	<p>Why does not my school have a physical education teacher? The principal says that because the money they give us does not cover this need.</p> <p><i>¿Por qué mi escuela no tiene maestro de educación física? La directora dice que porque no nos cubre el dinero que nos dan.</i></p>	<p>Pending</p>