

As our schools prepare to start the second half of the 2014-15 year, our number-one priority is ensuring that every single student is in the appropriate class on Monday morning ready to continue learning. I greatly appreciate our employees who have been doing everything they can to support our students' transition to the second semester while overcoming numerous obstacles, including a new data system that is not yet where we need it to be.

I am pleased to report that Bell Senior High – the first school to begin its second semester – successfully enrolled, scheduled, and submitted attendance for all of its students this week. While we are happy with this result, we have developed a comprehensive plan to be fully prepared for the possibility of challenges when single-track secondary schools begin their second semester next week.

Starting Monday, we will dispatch hundreds of employees to schools and ESC offices according to their anticipated support needs. These employees include technology specialists who can provide direct technical support as well as central office and educational service center (ESC) employees to assist with tasks related to the start of the semester. I have encouraged these employees to contact the MiSiS team if they see more than 10 students at a school without schedules after 10:00 AM.

We will allocate these resources using a multi-tiered approach, based on the number of students enrolled at the site, the number of HelpDesk tickets opened this year, the number of challenges experienced with scheduling and enrollment during the first semester, and other criteria. We are temporarily doubling HelpDesk resources and organizing a special triage center with additional phone lines and monitoring tools to ensure swift responses to any problems schools may experience.

I want to make sure we are doing everything possible to provide our schools with the support they need. I encourage every school to contact us immediately if they need any additional assistance.

Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines

Key Updates and Highlights

Scheduling

- Nearly every secondary student in LAUSD is ready to start classes on Monday with a complete schedule for the second semester. As this week closes there are only about 1,600 secondary students who are enrolled but who do not have a complete schedule; this is not unusual for this time of year.
- Scheduling rollover was completed for 100% of secondary schools.

Grades

- The team is finalizing critical fixes (i.e., printing on one page, including only correct courses) that must be in place to allow schools to provide accurate, readable, and correctly printed first-semester report cards to parents.
- Issues with Athletic Eligibility reports were fixed; thus, the recommended workarounds are no longer necessary.

English Learners

- We have fixed critical problems with reclassification letters for English learner students who met the criteria to reclassify in 2013-14; central offices are now printing the letters required of the District to issue to parents providing formal notice of the reclassification.

Graduation Standards

- The team is heavily focused on accommodating some nuances in reports showing student progress in meeting A-G requirements to support schools in understanding which seniors are positioned to graduate this spring.

Upcoming Milestones

- We have begun anticipating scheduling needs for 2015-16; focus groups with system users took place this week concerning alignment between system interfaces and school needs.