



Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent
Los Angeles Unified School District
(via electronic mail)

Dear Superintendent Carvalho:

The Unions of the Los Angeles Unified School District, representing over 74,000 workers who make LAUSD run, write to follow up our letter to you of yesterday. We appreciate that you heard our demand and closed District schools and offices today. However, to protect the safety of students, workers, and the community during the current firestorm, we renew our demand that you close all district schools, offices, and worksites tomorrow, without loss of compensation to workers. We further call on the state of California to make the district and any service providers whole for any losses resulting from closures during this crisis.

The unsafe conditions outlined in our letter yesterday continue. The wildfires continue raging in Los Angeles, with over a thousand structures destroyed, tens of thousands of acres burned, and at least two fatalities.

Extreme winds continue to threaten the further spread of the fires, which have overwhelmed the ability of authorities to respond. Air quality continues to be at an extremely unhealthy level throughout LA, with ash falling like rain in many areas of the district. Traffic is also congested throughout, making it difficult or impossible for many students and workers to travel to school sites and leaving many without food deliveries. Many school sites have lost power, water, telephone, and internet access.

In these extreme circumstances, requiring students, families, and workers to travel to school and attempt to conduct educational services in this environment is unsafe and irresponsible. Other school districts in the area have already decided to close.

We call on the Los Angeles Unified School District to

1. take the responsible step of closing all District schools, offices, and worksites for the remainder of the week and then assess whether schools may be reopened safely this upcoming Monday;
2. open up sites in safe zones for parents to take children if needed;
3. make food, water, and other critical resources available, like during prior pandemic closures;
4. ensure no loss of compensation to employees as a result of this emergency closure;

5. collaborate with local and state authorities to establish protective measures for our children and communities and ensure the delivery of essential services to students during closures related to this emergency.
6. call on the Governor to hold LAUSD and its employees and service providers harmless.

It is unacceptable that the nation's second-largest school district has demonstrated a delayed and inadequate response to this crisis. The safety and health of our community must be LAUSD's primary consideration. Due to continued red flag warnings, toxic and hazardous air quality, and a State of Emergency called by Governor Newsom, it is essential for the safety and well-being of all LAUSD employees, families, and students to not be traveling on the road and to stay home.

Collectively, we continue to call on the Board of Education and Superintendent Carvahlo to practice what they preach, Pillar 2- Joy and Wellness, and demonstrate compassion, empathy and humanity to all the dedicated workforce serving LAUSD by showing respect and dignity be the actions taken. They have an opportunity to demonstrate the care for and prioritize the health and well-being of all employees during an emergency crisis where our city is literally on fire.

Additionally, the requirement for students to switch to remote learning the morning of this emergency further compounds the challenges families face today. Virtual learning preparations should have been made immediately.

We urge the district to take the necessary actions before conditions worsen further.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Associated Administrators of Los Angeles/Teamsters Local 2010
California School Employees Association, Los Angeles Chapter 500
Teamsters Local 572
SEIU Local 99
United Teachers Los Angeles

Cc: LAUSD Board Members