SUBJECT: LAUSDATA: Los Angeles Unified Sharing Data for Accessibility, Transparency, and Accountability (Res-021-17/18)

DATE NOTICED: 12-12-17   **PRESENTED FOR ACTION:** 01-16-18

PRESENTED BY: Mr. Melvoin, Dr. Vladovic   **MOVED/SECONDED BY:** Mr. Melvoin/
            Dr. Rodriguez

MOTION: **RESOLUTION:** x

Whereas, Efforts to Improve student achievement in the Los Angeles Unified School District depend on the District's and community's ability to access and analyze current and emerging practices, trends, and data showing successes and challenges;

Whereas, The District, is committed to openness and transparency based on the belief that open government improves democratic functioning and fuels innovation and collective problem solving;

Whereas, The District's commitment aligns with, and follows the lead of, the City of Los Angeles, which seeks to be the most open and transparent city in the United States. Both the Mayor's Office through its GeoHub (geohub.lacity.org) and Open Data (data.lacity.org) websites and the City Controller's Office through its Control Panel LA website (https://controllerdata.lacity.org/), provide large amounts of open datasets for public users to download and analyze to better understand and conduct research regarding the city's operations and finances;

Whereas, Although the District already publishes significant amounts of information via its website and in response to requests, those data are not yet centralized or consistently provided in formats that can be utilized for further analysis by either stakeholders or staff;

Whereas, Over the last several years, new and emerging data practices and technology have enabled local governments, including school districts, to improve their transparency and accountability through open data. For example, New York City's Open Data website (https://data.cityofnewyork.us/browse?category=Education&provenance=official) allows the public to search datasets by agency, keyword, or category, and includes over 400 datasets related to its Department of Education, ranging from SAT, AP, and test results to detailed budget reports, some of which have been accessed by the public up to 20,000 times.

Whereas, Increasing access to data empowers stakeholders to participate in governance with greater understanding and impact. It fosters creative new thinking about solving our most intractable challenges like achievement and opportunity gaps, early literacy, English language development, and college readiness through public-private partnerships and promoting a culture of data sharing between our own District departments and other civic resources;

Whereas, Providing open data is a first step on the path towards transparent practices, and to building trust and accountability in the District as a civic institution; and

Whereas, Improved access to datasets and applications building upon those data sets would also enable the District to make progress towards goals like 100% graduation, literacy and numeracy for all, and college and career-readiness. For example, District staff and partners could benefit from data applications such as:

- Charts showing trends in college-persistence across time capable of being sorted by various factors such as ethnicity, gender, income status, etc.;
- Heat maps showing locations of schools with low or high English Learner reclassification rates;
- Tables of schools exhibiting above-average growth in student achievement on CAASPP scores in the middle grades;
- Visualizations comparing special education assessment or exit rates across local districts;
- Graphs comparing various financial investments in historically underperforming schools with academic outcomes broken down for African American, Latino, or Asian and Pacific Islander students;
- Real time data showing attendance fluctuations by school or local district compared to local investments in pupil services and attendance support; and
- Manipulable maps showing available LAUSD early childhood education programs for all families, low income families, and students with disabilities; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Superintendent will facilitate the creation of an LAUSD Open Data Portal website that will serve as the central source for open data, and will designate an Open Data Officer within the District to oversee the ongoing implementation of the portal. All datasets shall be made available on this portal (to the extent permitted by law and subject to valid privacy, confidentiality, security, and other legal or practical restrictions);

Resolved further, In establishing the LAUSD Open Data Portal, the District will utilize industry best practices such as the Open Data Policy Guidelines published by the Sunlight Foundation (https://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/), the Open Data Field Guide published by Socrata (https://socrata.com/open-data-field-guide/), or the Open Data Guide published by Open Data Handbook (http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/);

Resolved further, That the Open Data Officer will promptly establish an Open Data Policy, which will include a process for publishing open data to ensure that all appropriate datasets are identified for public disclosure. Datasets regarding student performance including college readiness indicators, budget and finance, and facilities should be prioritized for disclosure;

Resolved further, That each relevant District Division shall work with the Open Data Officer to make all appropriate data sets available online, and update its public data on a frequent basis (preferably automatically). The Open Data Officer and Divisions shall work with community stakeholders to identify—in a continuous manner—additional data sets that are not yet available but may be of value for public review and collaboration, and shall make best efforts to ensure that such data be identified and shared;

Resolved further, That the LAUSD Open Data Policy shall also ensure that:

- Datasets are shared in a secure fashion consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws to ensure that student privacy is not compromised;
- Datasets are centralized and easy to locate;
- Datasets are downloadable, machine readable and processable and, where appropriate, provided in a non-static format or in languages other than English;
- Datasets are searchable using common sense search terminology; and
- A mechanism is established for users to suggest datasets for release;

Resolved further, That the Open Data Officer will collaborate with relevant District staff to take proactive efforts to increase awareness of open datasets, establish useful, easy-to-understand applications employing these datasets (such as dashboards, maps, infographics, or interactive online tools), and collaborate with local entities (civic-minded software developers, universities, start-ups, non-profits, civic organizations, etc.) to experiment with new technologies, visualizations, and applications with the goal of identifying cost-effective solutions to improve our schools;

Resolved further, That the Open Data Portal will be established and available to the public within 180 days of passage of this Resolution, providing access to an initial set of datasets and applications using those datasets to enhance their accessibility; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent will report to the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District on the status of the District's open data efforts every 60 days through a written informative, including an analysis of what data sets are being frequently accessed and whether data sets that do not yet exist are being requested and identifying what applications have been developed and promoted to ensure that the data can become useful tools for the community.

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	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Gonez		X		
Dr. McKenna	X			
Mr. Melvoin	X			
Dr. Rodriguez	X			
Mr. Schmerelson	X			
Dr. Vladovic	X			
Ms. Garcia	X			
TOTAL	6	1		

ACTION: ADOPTED