



CHAMBERS OF  
MICHAEL NASH  
PRESIDING JUDGE

JUVENILE DIVISION  
**The Superior Court**  
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June 6, 2014

Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Dr. Deasy:

I have had the opportunity to review the positions of the L.A. Dignity in Schools Campaign and Brothers, Sons & Selves Coalition on the district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and write to encourage the district to reconsider the allocation of \$13.02 million of LCFF supplemental and concentration funds currently designated for the school police.

Through my work with the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) and the School Attendance Task Force (SATF), I have valued the committed partnership and leadership that the Los Angeles Unified School District has demonstrated by beginning to institutionalize alternative approaches to school discipline. It is my belief that the broad reforms passed by LAUSD in recent years, such as the comprehensive school climate resolution and the Worksource Center partnership for truancy referrals, are essential to the health of our children in L.A. County. With your help, we are beginning to reduce an over-reliance on punitive measures and court involvement for school-based incidents but more importantly, to ensure that student guidance and support is our number one priority.

It is in the spirit of this tremendous progress that I write to raise an important issue regarding the potential presented by the Local Control Funding Formula – namely my concern regarding the \$13.02 million currently designated from LCFF supplemental and concentration funds for the school police department. As you know, I have had the opportunity to work closely with LASPD and LAUSD over the last several years. I greatly respect the leadership of Chief Zipperman and the excellent work the district is doing to reduce school-based tickets and arrests in partnership with our community stakeholders.

My concern stems simply from my experience and understanding that first and foremost, the communities intended to benefit from LCFF are in dire need of every supportive resource-based approach available. Secondly, at this time, I do not see a reasonable nexus between law enforcement and specifically improving the educational experience and outcomes for our most vulnerable student populations. On the contrary, there has been a wealth of research that indicates that aggressive security measures produce alienation and mistrust among students which, in turn, can disrupt the learning environment. This

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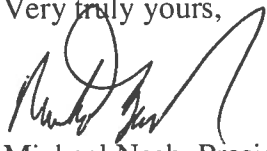
explains why, as part of a nationwide discipline reform process that has gained significant traction of late, there is a specific focus on reducing police involvement in routine school discipline matters.

I have been privileged to serve as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Los Angeles County for many years. Fulfilling this role is an honor and of course, a significant commitment. Like the district, I work diligently to seek solutions to address the tremendous challenges faced by the children and families the juvenile court serves. The educational experience for court-involved children, in particular, is an essential focus for our commitment to promote a successful transition into adulthood and to prevent additional contact with the juvenile and criminal systems. Lastly, it is extremely important to recognize that low-income communities and youth of color, the students that ultimately are meant to benefit from the desired vision for LCFF, are disproportionately represented in both the dependency and delinquency systems for reasons closely related to a lack of sustainable funding for prevention and supportive intervention services within these communities.

Because the vast majority of the children involved in the juvenile court system are those identified by LCFF for targeted improvements, I feel it is important to contribute my input.

As always, I look forward to our continued partnership.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Nash", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Nash, Presiding Judge  
Los Angeles Juvenile Court

cc: LAUSD Board of Education Members