



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parents Supporting Teachers Reacts to District's Continuity of Learning Plan

Late Monday, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Interim Superintendent Megan Reilly released a temporary Continuity of Learning Plan directive, while United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) and the district were still engaged in bargaining. While we do not agree with the method of announcing the plan as a directive, we are grateful to have a plan in place as we are in the third week of school, with thousands of children quarantined at home.

"The idea that kids would need to be quarantined is not a result of Delta, it is a result of Covid-19, which began in March 2020. The learning plan for kids quarantined at home, should have been bargained and agreed upon by the district and the union the minute the agreement for weekly testing was finalized, but certainly prior to the start of school." said co-founder Jenna Schwartz. "As the district continues to encourage parents to keep their sick kids home, there needs to be a clear message that attendance is not the priority, health is. There needs to be a change in policies, such as attendance calls, and truancy letters, for children who are quarantined. Ideally this will lead to the end of the Perfect Attendance Award."

"Families have been asking about a plan since the summer, and leadership on both sides were not addressing it. We are hopeful that our district and union leaders will work together on a plan that keeps students learning with their peers, while they stay home to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. There must be extra in class support, especially at the elementary level to assist classroom teachers with simultaneous video streams. The younger kids at home will have questions and need to be able to engage with an adult while the in-person students receive hands-on support," said co-founder Nicolie Fefferman.

While the District continues to discuss a plan for more robust learning options for students who must quarantine, UTLA is requesting teacher discretion and flexibility for families. PST supports a temporary virtual learning option for every child quarantined at home, and hopes teachers and families who require technical assistance are supported. PST also supports UTLA's requirement for all eligible students to be vaccinated.

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About Parents Supporting Teachers: Parents Supporting Teachers is a parent education advocacy group in Los Angeles with over 26,000 followers and is the only organically created group of this size exclusively dedicated to parent communication and education support in the entire LAUSD. Visit www.parentssupportingteachers.org to learn more and support our shared vision for equitable and inclusive LAUSD schools.