

What is Worth More LA?

Worth More LA is a group of parents and community members unwilling to accept educational cuts that deny opportunity to the children of Los Angeles. **We are legally challenging Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)'s distance learning plan in court.** We think our kids' futures are worth more than a plan that does not even meet California's constitutional guarantee of a basic public education and disproportionately harms Black and Latino students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

LAUSD has denied opportunities to Black and Latino students for too long. The inequities of our education system are no longer hidden behind school walls, but are in our homes. We won't go back to a system that doesn't educate all kids. Our movement aims to boldly push LAUSD toward a public education system that serves all students.

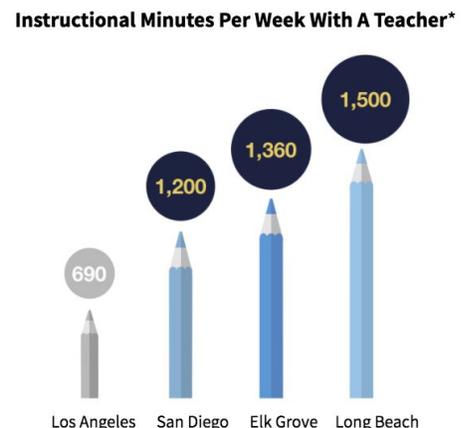
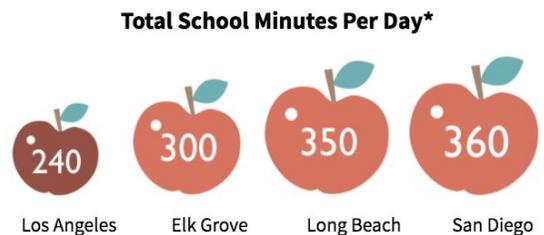
That is why a group of Black and Latino parents, organized through Innovate Public Schools and Parent Revolution, announced the filing of a lawsuit claiming LAUSD's plan for distance learning does not meet the standards set by SB 98, the law that created distance learning requirements for California schools, and violates students' right to a basic public education under the California Constitution. The suit also alleges Black and Latino students, English learners, and students with disabilities are disproportionately negatively impacted, violating their rights to equal protection.

Families understand that their children's futures are in danger. LAUSD's distance learning plan is unacceptable.

No focused equity efforts. Last spring, Black and Latino students were 20% less likely to be engaged online. English learners and students with disabilities were left out and disengaged. Despite acknowledging its failure to engage these students and with full knowledge of the deep inequities that preceded the pandemic, LAUSD is providing a one size fits all schedule and program, rather than providing equitable opportunities to the students who have always received the least from the system.

Not enough learning time. LAUSD has drastically cut the student school day. Every day, LAUSD is giving its students much less instructional time (including time with teachers *and* time spent learning alone) than other big California school districts. These differences add up. Over the course of a year, a high school student in San Diego will get *90 more days* of school than a Los Angeles high schooler.

Not enough instructional time with teachers and classmates. Not only is the LAUSD school day much shorter than other districts, but most of that time leaves students learning on their own without access to their teachers or their classmates. At a moment when students need connection with their teachers and classmates more than ever, LAUSD cut instructional time with teachers by nearly 60% from what students would normally get. Other districts are doing much more: high school students in Long Beach are getting twice as much time with their teachers every week.



*High school students

Not enough support and information for families. Distance learning requires families to be a partner in their kids' education, but LAUSD's plan only mandates that information on student schedules are shared with families. This leaves out critical information about student progress and curriculum that families need to help their children while they are learning at home. This is especially harmful to students with disabilities and English learners.

Not enough attention to student disconnection. In the Spring, LAUSD's decision to neither provide video instruction, assess student learning, nor take attendance had a profound impact on students. Many students spent months totally disconnected from school and their peers, putting tens of thousands of students at risk of dropping out. The Fall plan eliminates normal interventions like home visits, providing too little time for meaningful connection and implementing an attendance policy that counts students as "present" for a full day if they log in for as little as one minute or if the school receives an email.

Education experts have offered their support to these parents:

"LAUSD's current plan for distance learning in the 2020-2021 school year constitutes a **real and present threat** to the education and well-being of LAUSD's students, **especially the most vulnerable.**"

Professor Paul
Reville
Harvard University

"I am particularly concerned that the current plan **all but ensures** that students with disabilities, and possible other students at risk, will have **depressed academic achievement**, fall behind in all academic areas, and have their social emotional skills thwarted."

Professor Mark Alter
New York University

"The consequences will likely be **devastating for substantial numbers of students**, their families and the community."

Professor Robert Balfanz
Johns Hopkins University

It doesn't have to be this way.

LAUSD made the decision to reduce the teacher work day by 2 hours; none of the other largest CA districts made this choice. Over the course of a school year for LAUSD's 30,000 teachers, that adds up to over 11 million hours that could otherwise go to...

- **Equitable Support to Students:** Fresno Unified is providing daily targeted academic and social emotional support to students who are identified as needing extra help, in addition to the regular school day.
- **Instructional Time with Teachers:** San Diego Unified is providing twice as much learning time with teachers to elementary students as LAUSD.
- **Meaningful Parent Engagement and Support:** Elk Grove Unified designated 6 ½ hours per week for teachers to provide distance learning support to families and students.
- **Ongoing Learning Support:** Elk Grove Unified's plan ensures that students have the support of their teachers throughout the school day if they need help, even during independent work times. LAUSD's plan leaves students completely on their own for more than half of their instructional time.

What can you do?

- Support the families bringing this lawsuit by adding your voice and story on our website worthmorela.org.
- Follow us on social media [@WorthMoreLA](https://twitter.com/WorthMoreLA) to stay up to date with the legal proceedings.
- [Click here](#) to share a Tweet telling LAUSD that our students are worth more.

*High school students