

LVEA TODAY



Districtwide Climate Survey Response Update

LVEA and LVUSD met on December 15 and created common goals for moving forward in a constructive and collaborative manner. The biggest issue remains how to measure progress on these goals. Surveying our membership still seems to be the best way. LVEA and LVUSD want to do this in a way that encourages buy-in from certificated employees, the Board and administration which will hopefully lead to improved working relations and productive leadership throughout our district.

LVEA suggested using our 2016 Climate Survey and LVUSD suggested using the employee version of the Healthy Kids survey that some of our employees take each year. The Healthy Kids survey has a few morale-based questions, but more are needed in our opinion. Your Rep Council met on February 13 and agreed to a compromise: we will use a shortened Healthy Kids survey and embed 12 of the most pertinent questions from LVEA's 2016 Climate Survey towards the beginning of the Healthy Kids survey. The plan is to begin implementing this customized survey this spring and then hopefully every spring thereafter so we can track long-term responses and trends. Stay tuned for more updates!

District of Choice

In 1993 the legislature allowed for districts to become a "district of choice" which means they do not have play by the same rules for taking inter-district permitted kids. In order for a kid to permit into our district, there must be a justification, like siblings in the school, a special program we have, or the parents work within our boundaries. Districts of choice don't have to have this justification. The intent of the law was to allow students from impoverished areas to go to "better" districts. Over the course of that time, it has been discovered that this created more segregation because white families tended to be the ones who went to the districts of choice. For us, this meant a loss of ADA. In 2015/16 that was 355 kids or roughly \$2.7 million in lost funding to Oak Park who is a district of choice.

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Last fall, the law was removed and slated to end district of choice in the 2018/19 school year. We were very happy because this meant that we could see our ADA creep back up. However, due to pressure from districts like Oak Park, the legislature is looking to bring it back.

LVEA leadership is working with district administration to let our local assembly representative (Jacqui Irwin) and senator (Henry Stern) that we are opposed to bringing it back. We may ask you at some point in the near future to make calls to help us prevent this rule from making a comeback.

DON'T Sync Personal iPhones With District Computers!

Are you aware that your personal iPhone and/or other electronic devices could be syncing and backing up your personal data (text messages, emails, etc) to your district computer without your knowledge? LVEA recently investigated this issue and discovered that some employees have had their personal data unwittingly backed up to their district computer! Neither the district nor our employees initiated this intrusive action but it easily happens across the district. Once your personal data is on your district computer, it becomes discoverable by the district in any investigation or legal request.

Why is this happening? Apple engineers have cleverly programmed their devices to aggressively sync with each other. Their intent is to make these devices more flexible and functional which is usually great for users. The downside is that these devices are constantly trying to link and back-up to each other – yikes, that's a problem!

How do we fix this problem? The district and LVEA agree that employees should implement safeguards to protect their privacy. The district has consequently created a document to help you disable and remove iCloud and iMessage syncing on your district computer. This document has been included in the email for this digital newsletter, our association website at www.lveateachers.com and the district's website. LVEA suggests that everyone with an Apple computer un-sync it from their personal devices. If you need assistance beyond this document, then please contact your Media Specialist for help. You are also encouraged to use different account log-on IDs and passwords for any and all networking and social media programs, like iTunes, facebook, all Google Docs applications, etc., that might be installed on both your district computer and personal devices. If your district computer asks for your permission to turn on iCloud, iMessaging or anything else, LVEA suggests that you select NO!

What about non-Apple district computers like Acer, Dell, HP, etc that might link to your personal devices, like an android smartphone? This does not appear to be a problem; however, all employees are encouraged to implement the last precaution in the previous paragraph: make sure that you use different account IDs and passwords for all networking and social media programs that might be installed on your district and personal devices.

Governor's January Budget

The Governor released his January budget a couple of weeks ago, and the news is pretty bland. As you are aware, the state changed how it funds schools in order to focus more attention on students of need. As a result of this change, we receive a lot less than some of our neighboring districts. The Governor's proposal gives us a COLA of 1.48% plus some additional "gap" funding (hard to predict what that equates to at this point). He also proposed an additional allocation of one-time funds of \$48 per ADA. This proposal will be debated and modified as we move to the June deadline for passing a budget. We will let you know how it all plays out as we roll toward that time

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