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**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 241-7000 | Fax: (213) 241-8442

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent

November 28, 2018

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Herb Wesson
Los Angeles City Council President
200 North Spring Street Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street #383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Wesson and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

A growing number of people in Los Angeles, including L.A. Unified students, face poverty and homelessness, a trend that our school district finds deeply concerning. We know you share this concern. At least 15,000 of our students are currently experiencing homelessness, and the actual figure is likely much higher. More than 400,000 of our students are living in poverty.

The recent stories by columnist Steve Lopez and photographer Francine Orr in the *Los Angeles Times* are a vivid reminder of the challenges our students confront outside our schools every day. How can we expect our children to excel in the classroom when they are worrying about where they will sleep at night, or where they will get their next meal?

At Los Angeles Unified, we aim to provide a safe, welcoming learning environment for all of our students. We want to prepare every student to thrive in college, career and life. But the students highlighted by the *Times* may struggle to stay on that path without more support to overcome the crises their families face.

We ask you to work with us to solve this issue for our students and to provide these students and their families with the services they need. While we provide counselors, school supplies and clothing, and other supports at school, these students and their families need housing, counseling, healthcare, job and career training and much more. The community has voiced its commitment to struggling families by approving tax increases to provide billions of dollars in funds the City and County of Los Angeles can use to provide housing and services to the homeless.

Below is a list of just a few of the Los Angeles Unified schools that have a significant number of homeless students most in need of assistance:

- Belmont Senior High School
- City of Angels Independent Studies School
- Esperanza Elementary School
- Francisco Sepulveda Middle School Gifted Magnet
- Grover Cleveland Charter High School
- James Monroe Senior High School
- Langdon Avenue Elementary School
- Santee Education Complex
- Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High School – Law/Public Service Magnet
- Telfair Avenue Elementary School

With your commitment and support, we can help students in these schools and their families.

Thank you for your commitment to helping all students in Los Angeles reach their full potential.

Austin Beutner
Superintendent

Jose Razo
Telfair Avenue ES Principal

Kelly Gonez
Board of Education Member