



LINCOLN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent
Steven A. Lowder, Ed.D.

May 12, 2010

Important Message about Involuntary Student Transfers

Dear Parents:

This message is an attempt to clarify the issues surrounding the District's need to involuntarily transfer approximately 243 students for the 2010 – 2011 school term. You may know that LUSD, as are all districts in the State, is experiencing another year of budget cuts. Over the last five years, Lincoln has done a good job of keeping the cuts away from the classroom. We have reduced the number of administrators, reduced spending, furloughed staff and reduced the number of employees to accomplish our goals. Even though our enrollment is higher this year, we were forced to reduce our elementary staff by 18 full time teachers. This reduction is the reason we are compelled to move students. Our classrooms are full, but the class sizes must grow due to the budget conditions. We will always move teachers before moving students. However, this is not always possible.

Student Selection:

Our most important criterion is to make every attempt to keep families together. We first thought that keeping siblings together should be the only criterion and then students would be selected on a random basis to attend another Lincoln School. However, it has become clear that our parent community wanted us to use multiple criteria to select the transfer students. A list of the criteria that are currently under consideration follows:

1. The first group to be considered will be those who are on inter-district agreements.
2. The next group will be those students living within LUSD, but outside their school site attendance boundaries.
3. Finally and if necessary we will move to those students living within the attendance boundaries for the site they attend.
4. In all cases we will work to keep siblings together.
5. Students will not be moved if there is a District sponsored site-specific program.

At the request of parents we are considering using a "longevity" factor. In essence it means that if one student had attended a school for 5 years and another for only 3 years, the student attending only 3 years would be selected first.

As the selection criteria become more complex, the time to select and notify parents takes more work and the notification time extended. We had originally planned to notify parents by the end of May of an involuntary move. Unfortunately, as the process becomes more complex, we believe parent notification will be later in the month of June.

All families selected for an involuntary transfer will be notified by phone. This is a difficult but necessary action. We are fortunate that all of our schools are good schools with caring staff and programs of merit. We ask for your support in this difficult process, and we value your dedication to your students and our schools.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Lowder, Ed.D.
Superintendent