

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE PARENTS' COUNCIL

Established By The Modified Consent Decree In The Case Of *Chanda Smith vs. LAUSD*

INTRODUCTION. In 1993, a class-action lawsuit, *Chanda Smith v. LAUSD*, was filed to compel LAUSD to provide special education services in compliance with state and federal laws. LAUSD settled the *Chanda Smith* case and negotiated a Consent Decree that was approved by the federal court in April 1996. In a Modified Consent Decree, approved in May 2003, parties to the lawsuit agreed that an Independent Monitor will now have the responsibility of determining whether the District has complied with the agreed-upon outcomes. The District has committed to achieving those outcomes by June 30, 2006.

PARENTS' COUNCIL. The Modified Consent Decree also established a Parents' Council to advise the Independent Monitor on issues relevant to families of children with disabilities who are eligible to receive services from LAUSD. The membership of the Parents' Council consists of up to 30 parents of children with disabilities ("parent members") and up to 10 *ex officio* (non-parent and non-voting) members.

The Parents' Council's duties include:

1. Review the District's implementation of the Modified Consent Decree.
2. Periodically meet with the Independent Monitor to discuss the District's efforts with respect to implementing the Modified Consent Decree and to share with the Independent Monitor any information bearing on the District's obligations under the Modified Consent Decree.
3. Regularly meet with counsel for the plaintiffs in either open or closed session to receive reports on implementation on the Modified Consent Decree.
4. Periodically met with the representatives of the District to receive reports on
• implementation of the Modified Consent Decree.
5. Provide comments to the Independent Monitor on the Annual Plan [in June, the district submitted its first annual plan (available at <http://dse-web.lausd.k12.ca.us>) to the Independent Monitor for his review and approval].

APPLICATION GUIDELINES. Interested parents may apply for membership on the Parents' Council to help shape the system for *all* children in the District. The applicant must be a parent (or legal guardian) of a child with disabilities residing within the District. The Parents' Council offers an opportunity to work with others, and to share expertise and experience, in an effort to improve the system. The Parents' Council meetings are on the second Monday of each month, 6-9 PM, at Gratts Elementary School, 309 Lucas Avenue, in downtown Los Angeles. Successful applicants will be expected to attend and participate in each of these meetings.

The Parents' Council will nominate one individual for each vacancy. The Independent Monitor may appoint the nominee, or he may reject the nomination if he finds (1) that the applicant is not a parent, or (2) that appointment of the applicant would result in the Council not reflecting the diversity of the District (for example, District geography, range of disabilities, student placement options).

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APPLICANTS: PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Day Phone () _____

Evening Phone () _____

Fax Phone () _____

Cell Phone () _____

Pager Phone () _____

E-Mail Address _____

Local School District (for example, "District H") _____

Ethnicity _____

Preferred Language _____

Would you need help to participate on the Parents' Council?

Translation from English? Into which language? _____

Transportation? Child care?

Regarding Your Child Who Is Eligible For LAUSD Special Education Services And For Whom You Are The Legal Guardian (If more than two children fit this description, provide the same information for others, using the back of this page):

Name _____

Age _____ Disability _____

Current School Placement _____

Home School _____

Name _____

Age _____ Disability _____

Current School Placement _____

Home School _____

