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# News Statement

**For Immediate Release**

January 31, 2012  
#11/12-107

## **STATEMENT BY SUPERINTENDENT DEASY ON THE ARREST OF FORMER LAUSD TEACHER**

I am sickened and horrified by the behavior of Mark Berndt. This individual and his conduct do not reflect on the quality of the teachers who work so hard on behalf of the students in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

I was notified of this investigation by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) more than a year ago on January 7, 2011. Mark Berndt was immediately removed from the school that same day and the Los Angeles Board of Education, at its next meeting, approved his termination.

Crisis counseling and support have been provided for more than a year to the known victims and their families, and we continue to offer those necessary services to new victims as they are identified or any student or parents who requests assistance.

LAUSD officials are cooperating with the LASD in its investigation.

The District takes each and every reported act of criminal and administrative misconduct seriously, and we will continue to aggressively pursue each case to determine the truth of the matter, and initiate the appropriate disciplinary measures. The District's efforts remain with ensuring that the victims and families in this case continue to receive the necessary support from LAUSD moving forward.

Berndt, 61, a former teacher at Miramonte Elementary School, has been arrested on child molestation charges. He taught at the school for more than 30 years.

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