

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES A NEW MODEL OF HIGH SCHOOLS

LOS ANGELES – Partnering with the New Tech High School Foundation, the Los Angeles Unified School District announced today that four New Tech High School LAUSD model campuses have opened for the 2006-2007 school year. At these smaller, more personalized schools, 21st century technology, teacher collaboration and project-based learning will be an integral component of instruction and curriculum.

These new models encourage teachers to collaborate in co-teaching subjects such as English language arts and social studies, consequently making the subjects more pertinent and relevant to students. In addition, students will use a special software program, Lotus Notes that will allow students and parents to each review their projects, assess their notes, make changes to their group projects and receive daily feedback from their teachers.

“These schools are great examples of how technology is changing the course of how we educate and teach our students today,” said Los Angeles School Superintendent Roy Romer. “In a global world where technology know-how is a necessity rather than a luxury, it’s imperative that we continue to transform our schools, especially our high schools, to make learning more timely and relevant.”

These autonomous and small schools have been successfully implemented throughout the United States with great academic success and are modeled to help prepare students for post-secondary educational and career opportunities. The New Tech High Schools are located on four LAUSD campuses including Arleta High School, Jefferson High School, Jordan High School, and the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex.

At Arleta New Tech High School for Environmental Studies, 225 students will be able to address mass science and technology, plus study about current environmental issues such as global warming and saving the earth’s natural resources.

New Tech High School for Student Empowerment Academy at Jefferson High School encourages students to build their own identity and school culture. With students sporting uniforms, they have created a solid sense of identity that is built around social activism, health consciousness and environmental activities.

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Jordan New Tech High School includes 180 students that work very closely on project-based curriculum using computers and the Lotus Notes software. For example, once a group project is complete regarding health issues, students invite local healthcare business and organizations for input and to grade their work.

The Los Angeles School of Global Studies, a New Tech High model at the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex opened this week with 220 students. The program will utilize technology and teach core subjects such as English, social studies, math and science to illustrate how world economics, information and society are interlinked. In addition, students will also take a digital media course that is being funded through the Carl Perkins Career Technological Education Program Fund. Teachers received extensive training to accurately replicate this very successful model.

With the launch of this new academic school year, the District is committed to its ongoing high school transformation plan. Currently, LAUSD's 55 comprehensive high schools are in the process of transforming themselves into smaller, more self-sufficient communities, commonly referred to as small learning communities. Presently, the LAUSD has established 302 small learning communities district wide.

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