

Happy New Year from the Compact Team!

2021 has come to a close, and while this pandemic continues to prove incredibly uncertain, it only reinforces the importance of the work of the L.A. Compact. Furthermore, it inspires us to work harder and do more with you, our partners, so that together, we can continue to make systemic, educational advances that positively impact our students and families.

However, before we turn the page on 2021, let's take a moment to celebrate what L.A. Compact partners accomplished in the previous year and reflect on how we can build upon those successes.

A Year in Review

Take a look at what we collectively accomplished in 2021. Thank you to all of our L.A. Compact members and convening partners. Without you, none of this work would be possible.



L.A. Compact signers renewed their commitment to the **third iteration** of the L.A. Compact agreement, which includes a deeper and more explicit commitment to equity, ensuring students of all backgrounds are supported in reaching their full potential.

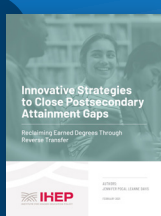


The L.A. Unified Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution to **invest \$63 million** to increase the district's capacity and infrastructure to expand its community schools network from **30 to 70 schools** by 2025.

The L.A. Compact supported the passage and is helping with the implementation of L.A. Unified's *Got a Plan for That? Removing Barriers to College and Career Success* resolution, which aims to have **all high school seniors complete financial aid applications and develop a post-graduation plan** before they graduate, starting in the 2022-23 school year.



CSUN Connection's efforts over the past four years to **retroactively award eligible students with an associate degree after they have transferred to a four-year institution** was featured in the *Reverse Transfer Guidebook*, a publication of the Institute for Higher Education Policy. Additional regional community colleges have since joined the effort.



The L.A. Workforce Systems Collaborative convened **19 meetings** throughout the course of the year to collaborate on sector strategies and equitable access to training, services, and employment opportunities. This included advocacy around the Build Back Better bill.



The LAEPP Policy Advisory Group successfully advocated for an **investment of \$3 billion in state budget dollars** for staff development and teacher recruitment for low-income schools.



With contributions from L.A. Compact signers, **we raised \$35,000** for the L.A. Compact Operational Fund to expand our communication efforts and sustain the L.A. Compact Charting Progress Dashboard, among other key activities.



SoCal Grantmakers invited UNITE-LA to present at its *Education Funders* meeting on the **history, impact and current initiatives** of the L.A. Compact. The presentation featured testimony from five of our partners - **USC, CSU Northridge and Dominguez Hills, UTLA and California Community Foundation**.



Thirteen additional schools joined L.A. Unified's Community Schools Initiative (CSI) for a total of 29 schools participating in the initiative. Additionally, the CSI **received \$6 million** from the California Community Schools Partnership Program to expand L.A. Unified's network of community schools.



The L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative launched the *Foster Youth College Promise Workgroup* to increase direct enrollment of foster youth into college after high school, utilizing a design thinking approach. They held **five focus groups** with community college, K-12 and child welfare stakeholders to better understand the challenges foster youth face in navigating post-secondary enrollment.



The L.A. Compact launched a community of practice with **12 higher education partners** who also participated in the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) study completed in early 2021. After meeting for two months and hearing directly from post-transfer students, **seven of the campuses have developed plans** to make ADT work more for students. UNITE-LA will support implementation of these plans in 2022.



The L.A. County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger adopting the **10 recommendations** from the L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative's recent case study on improving foster youth access to early skill-building work experience programs through the county's new Automated Referral System.



The L.A. Educator Pathways Partnership (LAEPP), a data sharing effort between L.A. Unified and **six of the region's teacher prep programs**, produced recommendations for improving teacher preparation practices, especially for special education teachers, and a better understanding of retention and turnover patterns of teachers who graduated from these programs.



The L.A. County Economic Development Corporation and UNITE-LA launched the *LA DEAL*, a coalition of **more than 100 partners** from education, government, business and nonprofit sectors working together to eliminate the digital divide in the region. In August, the California Public Utilities Commission awarded the group a California Advance Service Fund Grant to advance equitable broadband internet service deployment in the region.



As we plan for the upcoming year, let's remember that we are all working towards a common goal - a better and inclusive future for Los Angeles County. Cheers to that! We look forward to continuing to work with all of you in 2022!

Be safe and stay well!