



Interdistrict Transfer Report

Laguna Beach Unified School District

LBUSD Board of Education Meeting
April 16, 2026

Background Information

LBUSD is experiencing a sustained enrollment decline. While revenue is not directly tied to enrollment as a basic aid district, enrollment levels materially affect program quality and the student experience.

Laguna Beach High School: Enrollment is ~818, down from 883 in 2023-24. Projections suggest a decline to 600 students within the next decade.

Projected Educational & Student Experience Impacts

Athletics

Programs will struggle to field full rosters across multiple sports, particularly lower-participation sports.

Performing Arts

Smaller participation levels in band, choir, theater, and visual arts will limit production quality and student opportunity.

Small Sections (electives & advanced)

Sections may drop to 5-10 students, reducing peer-to-peer learning and academic diversity, potentially triggering cancellations.

Clubs & Leadership

Student organizations will have fewer participants, reducing viability and leadership opportunities.

Background Information

The district has maintained a net positive interdistrict transfer position across all grades over the past several years, consistently bringing in more students than it loses on an annual basis. However, while interdistrict transfers are a net positive overall, they may not be sufficient in the current configuration to counter broader enrollment decline driven by residential demographic decline.

Summary - In/Out Transfers							
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
IN	46	52	48	49	53	55	55
OUT	37	28	24	26	31	30	30
NET	+9	+24	+24	+23	+22	+25	+25

*Projected

Board Policy 5117: Interdistrict Attendance

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians may desire to enroll their children in a school in another district for a variety of reasons.

A Broad Governing Framework

- The Board may enter interdistrict attendance agreements with other districts governing the terms of student transfers in and out.
- Approval or denial of individual transfer requests is delegated to the Superintendent's designee, governed by the conditions in AR 5117.
- The district does not provide transportation for interdistrict transfer students.

Administrative Regulation 5117

Contains the details for how BP 5117 is enacted.

Eligibility to Apply

- Open to all out-of-district families; bullying victims and military dependents receive priority

Automatic approval categories

- Mid-year moves, junior/senior continuity, LBUSD employee children, and SARB referrals

Permit terms and conditions

- Supporting documentation; permits revocable for falsification, misconduct, or lost eligibility

Continued enrollment and school assignment

- No annual reapplication within a grade span; school assignment fixed at initial enrollment

Appeal process and criteria

- Available only to students with prior LBUSD enrollment or an LBUSD-employed parent

Revocation

- TK-9 permits revocable for conduct or academics; 11-12 permits protected after 10th grade

Transfers out of the district

- Military families and bullying victims may not be blocked from transferring

Interdistrict Transfer Process



1. Application Submission

Parent/guardian submits the Interdistrict Transfer Agreement form to their district of residence.



2. District Review

District of residence approves or denies the request based on attendance agreements and policy.



3a. If Approved

Form is sent to the requested district for final approval or denial.



3b. If Denied / Appeal

- Appeal to Superintendent or designee.
- If still denied, right to appeal to County Board of Education within 30 days.

As of the 2026-27 academic year, IDTs will be approved for the term of enrollment within the receiving school, and will be reevaluated prior to transitioning to the next school (i.e. elementary to middle school) to ensure adequate space and program capacity. (AR 5117)

Required Conditions for Interdistrict Transfers

California Education Code § 46600

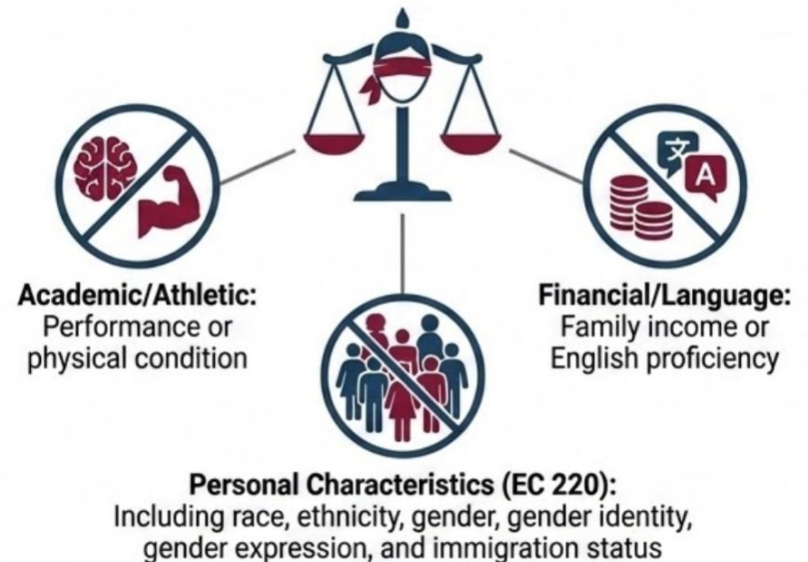
Mandatory Acceptance (Until Capacity)

Districts shall accept transfer applications for students who are:

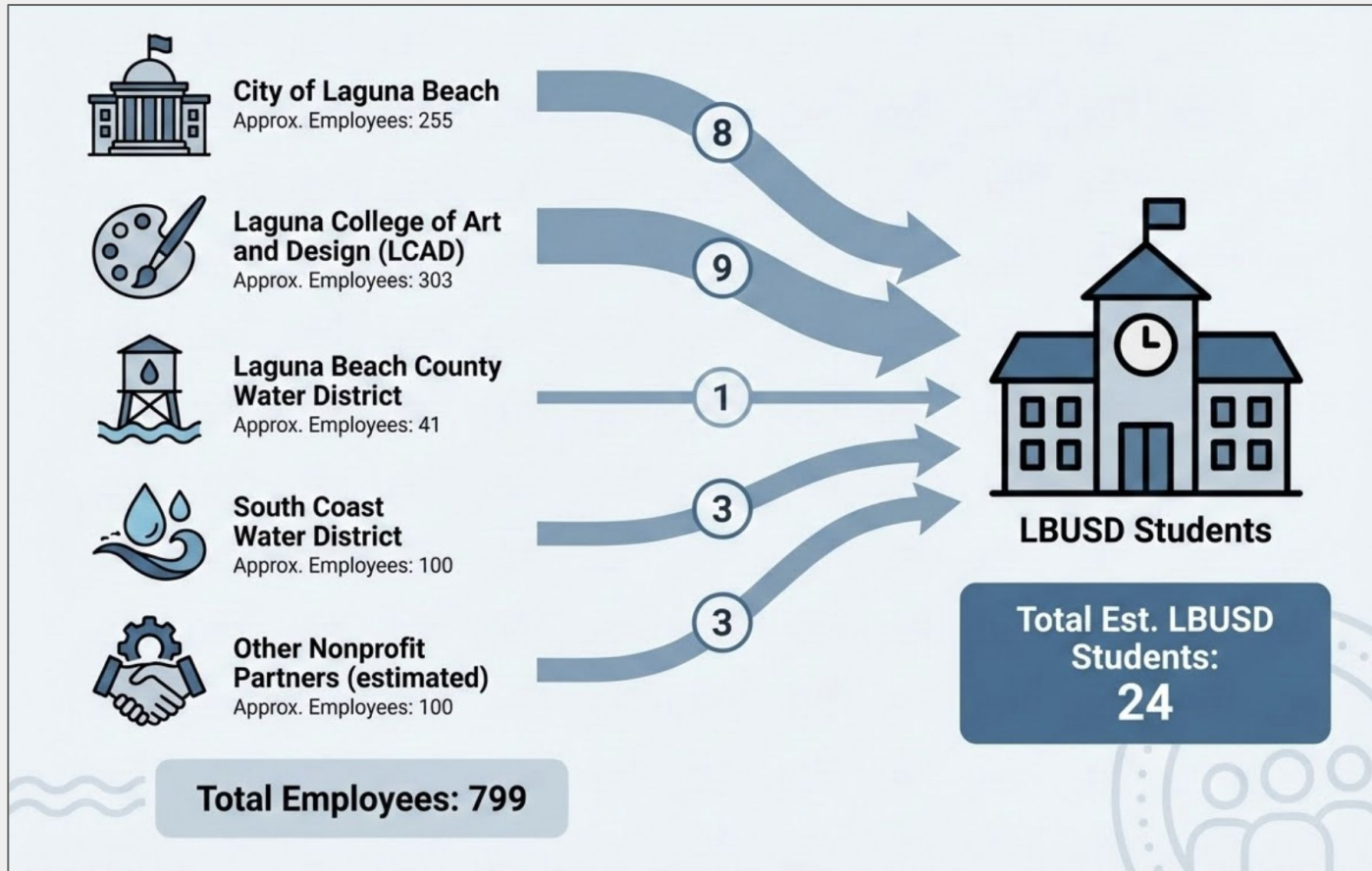


Unbiased Admission Process

The district must use an unbiased process that prohibits inquiry into or consideration of the following:



Proposed Expansion: Children of Laguna Beach Community Partner Staff



** Estimate applies standard assumptions: approximately 15 percent of employees have school-age children; approximately 20 percent of those eligible would choose to enroll in LBUSD. Actual uptake may be higher or lower depending on employee demographics and residential proximity.*

Considerations

Revenue Neutrality



- **Funding Source:** Local Property Taxes
- **Cost Bearer:** Local Taxpayers
- **Justification:** Modest expansion (20-30 students) for sustainability.

Employer-Equity Considerations



- **Issue:** Preferential access permissible but draws scrutiny.
- **Mitigation:** Transparency & Formal Vetting.

Capacity



- **Condition:** Strictly limited to available space.
- **Constraint:** No additional staffing required.
- **Outcome:** No approvals exceeding existing limits.

Legacy Enrollment



- **Topic:** Eligibility for alumni grandchildren.
- **Challenge:** Complex legal & equity dilemma.
- **Status:** Currently for Board Awareness Only.

Staff Recommendation & Requested Direction

This item is presented for information and discussion. Staff is not requesting Board action at this meeting.

Staff seeks Board input on the following questions:

Does the Board support the concept of expanding IDT eligibility to children of employees of designated community partner organizations?

Are there specific partner organizations the Board would include or exclude from initial consideration?

Does the Board wish staff to develop a formal proposal – including draft Administrative Regulation (AR) language, employment verification, and capacity analysis?

Does the Board wish staff to study the legacy enrollment concept separately for a future discussion? Or other groups for consideration (ex. coaches).

If the Board provides direction to proceed, staff will consult with site teams and parent/community advisory council members to gather input and engage in collaborative discussion. Staff will then return with a complete proposal including proposed AR 5117 revisions, legal counsel review, a partner organization list, and an implementation timeline.



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