



9th Street School to Close for Reconstruction

Publish Date : 06/25/2010

Officials of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) have announced plans to close the 9th Street Elementary School and build new facilities on the site, leaving a three-year gap when kindergarten-through-5th-grade students will attend other campuses until the project is finished.

The plans call for the campus at 9th Street and Towne Avenue—which serves many children from the Skid Row district and other hard-pressed neighborhoods—to re-open in 2013 with a charter middle school operated by non-profit social service provider Para Los Niños on the site.

LAUSD officials said the new campus will be “new and greatly improved.”

“For several years, the current campus has consisted of antiquated portable bungalows, no auditorium, no library and no place for students to play when it rains,” according to an announcement from officials of the school district. “...The campus will close and the multiple portable bungalows will be removed this summer.”

LAUSD officials said the new campus “will feature state-of-the-art enhancements expected to bolster and improve instruction and student achievement.”

The plan to have Para Los Niños operate a middle school serving the 6th, 7th and 8th grades would give students a chance to remain at the campus until they enter high school.

LAUSD officials said that all of the students who currently attend 9th Street Elementary School will be accommodated at other campuses, “either their neighborhood school or through the...Inter-District Transfer Permit Program.”

The new campus will be funded by Proposition Q, a bond measure passed by voters in the areas served by LAUSD in 2008.

Bond measures are ways for government entities, including school districts, to borrow money. Bonds issued by public entities must be repaid, with interest, by taxpayers. LAUSD’s bond issues are typically paid through extra taxes on property owners.