

Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista Schools Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Neighborhood Stakeholders

Many stakeholders in the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista community have questions about the accessibility, function, and options available to families with school aged children. The following frequently asked questions (FAQ) have been generated as a coordinated effort of the Loyola Marymount University Family of Schools (LMU FOS) and the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa (NCWP) Education Committee. The goal of providing these FAQ's is to:

“demystify” the local school options for Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista residents; engage stakeholders in the local schools (e.g., local realtors in promoting the benefits of local schools, providing opportunities for stakeholders to explore how they may contribute to the local schools); and provide accurate information that may assist parents in enrolling/retaining their children in our local schools.

**Please confirm with the websites listed to verify information. LMU Family of Schools is not responsible for maintaining the information found on this webpage. Email any corrections or comments to the LMU Family of Schools at FOSinfo@LMU.edu

Thank you for your interest in the students and schools in the Westchester/Playa communities. A downloadable version of this FAQ is available on the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa – Education Committee webpage: <http://www.ncwpr.org/westchesterplaya-schools-faqs-neighborhood-stakeholders>.

1. What are different types of schools located in the Westchester/Playa Community?

- a. **Public** – A public school is an elementary, middle or high school supported by public funds and provides free education for students in a community or district.
(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/public+school>)

- i. Traditional

A **traditional** public school is controlled and operated by a school district or appointed officials and derives its primary support from public funds.
(<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/glossary.asp>)

Within the Westchester/Playa area the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is the main district for the traditional school system.
(<http://home.lausd.net/>)

- ii. Charter

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA; <http://www.calcharters.org>) defines **charter** schools as, “public schools that are tuition-free and open to any student [that] wishes to attend. Charter

schools are designed, tailored, and governed by each local community, rather than by a central bureaucracy.”

There is a difference between Independent and Affiliate Charter Schools. **Independent Charter Schools** are *fully autonomous* schools with a board of directors and operate within the California Charters Schools Act. **Affiliate Charter Schools** are *semiautonomous* and they operate in accordance with district policies. Affiliated charter schools also follow existing union agreements set by the Board of Education.

(http://www.calcharters.org/blog/PSC_School%2520Models_English_11x17_0.pdf)

For a child to be eligible to attend a charter school, a parent/guardian must fill out an intent to enroll form at their desired school.

iii. Magnet

A **magnet** school is a public school that offers special instructions and programs that may not be available elsewhere. They are designed to attract a diverse student body from the entire school district.

For a child to be eligible to attend a magnet school a parent/guardian must fill out the e-Choices application and submit it to their desired school

iv. Pilot

In LAUSD, **Pilot** schools are a network of public schools that have autonomy over budget, staffing, governance, curriculum, assessment and the school calendar. This autonomy allows them the flexibility to meet their student’s needs.

(http://pilotschools.lausd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=190037&type=d&pREC_ID=393572)

For a child to be eligible to attend a pilot school, a parent/guardian must fill out appropriate Inter-district online application form and turn it in to their desired school.

b. Private

i. Parochial

Parochial schools are schools that are supported by a particular church, synagogue, mosque or parish and are funded by private resources instead of tax dollars. (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/parochial%20school>)

For a child to be eligible to attend a Parochial school, a parent/guardian must fill out an application, submit required report cards/standardized tests and make an appointment with the school for a tour and interview.

ii. Independent

Independent schools are run by a self-perpetuating board of directors as a not-for-profit institution. They are funded by private resources instead of tax dollars. (<http://www.cais.ca/page.cfm?p=648>)

For a child to be eligible to attend an Independent school, a parent/guardian must fill out application, submit required report cards/standardized tests and make an appointment with the school for a tour and interview.

2. What schools am I eligible to send my child to? What are the home schools designated for residents in the Westchester/Playa Community?

- a. **Public schools** – Public school eligibility is primarily dependent on the child’s residence. LAUSD provides a webpage for finding your “home” school. Enter your full home address where indicated on this website:
<http://rsi.lausd.net/ResidentSchoolIdentifier/>.
- b. There are many public school options in the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista communities; see them listed at the bottom of this FAQ page.
- c. **Private Schools** (Parochial and Independent) are also options. You must apply to these schools and – if admitted – pay tuition for your child to attend. There are many private school options in the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista communities; see them listed at the bottom of this FAQ page.

3. What is the LMU Family of Schools?

- a. The Loyola Marymount University Family of Schools is a university collaborative dedicated to promoting student success and educational equity for the schools in the Westchester/Playa community. The LMU Family of Schools (LMU FOS) focuses on creating a partnership between Loyola Marymount University and the schools in the Westchester/Playa area of Los Angeles. The LMU FOS mission focuses on school culture and climate, academic achievement, and college and career-readiness.
- b. Its partner schools include: Cowan Avenue Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Loyola Village Elementary, Paseo Del Rey Natural Science Magnet, Playa Vista Elementary, St. Anastasia School, St. Bernard High School, St. Jerome School, Visitation School, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School, Westport Heights Elementary, WISH Charter, and Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet.

- c. More information about the LMU Family of Schools can be found at: <http://soe.lmu.edu/centers/lmufamilyofschools/> , Twitter: @LMU_FOS or Facebook: LMU Family of Schools.

4. What is the procedure for obtaining enrollment permits for LAUSD schools and when are they needed?

- a. You would need to obtain a **permit** for your child to attend a LAUSD school if you would like to switch your child to another school within the boundaries of LAUSD.
- b. Types of permits available:
- i. Information about enrollment and student transfers in the LAUSD system can be found at: http://notebook.lausd.net/portal/page?_pageid=33,168887&_dad=ptl
 - ii. **LAUSD Inter-district Online Application Form** is available between February 1st and April 30th.

5. What does it mean for a school to have a STEM or STEAM focus?

A school with a **STEM** focus places its emphasis on curriculum and programming that supports the study of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to increase American academic competitiveness.

A school with a **STEAM** continues their focus on science, technology, engineering and math while adding an emphasis focusing on **Arts** programs.

6. What does it mean for a school to be a “Distinguished School”?

- a. The **California Distinguished School** program honors California’s most exemplary and inspiring public schools. Schools selected have demonstrated significant gains in narrowing the achievement gap. A recent list of the Distinguished elementary, middle and high schools can be found at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/>
- b. **Magnet e-Choices** process
- i. There are three programs available through Choices: *Magnet*, *Permits With Transportation (PWT)*, and *CORE Waiver Priority School Matriculate Choice Program (PSMCP)*.
 1. **Magnet:** Magnet Programs are court ordered integration opportunities available to students in grades K-12 residing within LAUSD boundaries.
 2. **Permits with Transportation (PWT):** This program is offered to residents of the LAUSD that live in a PWT sending school area. District paid transportation is provided for Elementary and Secondary applicants if they reside outside a two-mile radius or outside a PWT school attendance boundary.

3. **Core Waiver Priority School Matriculate Choice Program (PSMCP):** This program gives parents the option to enroll their child in an alternative school of choice at kindergarten, 6th, 7th or 9th grade levels.
 - ii. **Highly Gifted Magnet Program:** The highly gifted magnet program serves students that have the ability to work two years above grade level in all academic subjects. A list of schools offering the gifted/high ability program can be found at: <http://echoices.lausd.net/Magnet/GiftedCriteria.aspx>
 - iii. Information about the **e-Choices** process can be found at: <http://echoices.lausd.net/>

7. What is Common Core?

- a. The **Common Core** is a set of high-quality academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy (ELA). These learning goals outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade.
- b. More information about Common Core may be found here: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

8. How can I learn more about special education/gifted education services provided within local schools?

- a. The **Public School** system is required to provide specialized services for students diagnosed with specific emotional and/or learning disorders. The types of services are identified in the student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan).
 - i. **Special Education Services:** Special education services make sure that all of the needs of students with disabilities are met through additional and specified services, supports, programs, placements or environments. Special education services are provided at no cost to families. The purpose of the special education services is to give students with disabilities access to the same educational programs and activities that are available to their peers without disabilities.

For more information please visit: <http://achieve.lausd.net/sped>. Contact each specific school to explore what specialized services they provide for students with learning differences.
 - ii. **IEP:** An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written plan describing the child's abilities and needs. It determines the placement and services needed to help the student be involved in, and progress in, the general curriculum. For more information on the construction of an IEP, IEP Meetings and Transition Services please visit: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/2266>
 - iii. **School Mental Health:** School Mental Health programs offer services that emphasize student support, advocacy and resiliency building. Individual

schools opt to purchase a Psychiatric Social Worker to provide mandated counseling services to students receiving special education including students that are identified as: emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, deaf and hard of hearing, and visually impaired. For more information about School Mental Health services:

http://notebook.lausd.net/portal/page?_pageid=33,922977&_dad=ptl

- b. **Private schools** are not required to provide these services, but many make accommodations following the written recommendations of an independent child psychologist or pediatric neuropsychologist.
- c. More information on **Learning Disabilities** may be found at the Learning Disabilities Association of America website: <http://ldaamerica.org/>

9. What are key questions parents should ask when selecting a school?

- a. Questions asked by parents are dependent upon grade level of student and information desired. However, here is a website that provides sample questions that may be useful regardless of grade or type of school:

<http://www.greatschools.org/find-a-school/school-visit/24-the-school-visit-what-to-look-for-what-to-ask.gs>

- b. Sample questions asked may include the following:

1. Elementary School

- a. What is the student-teacher ratio in each class?
- b. How are behavior problems handled?
- c. What distinguishes your school from other schools in the area?
- d. How much homework is given nightly?
- e. How do you support children with different learning styles and needs?
- f. What before-school activities do you provide? At what costs?
- g. What after-school activities do you provide? At what costs?
- h. What is the physical environment?
- i. How are teachers supported and held to a high standard?
- j. What are the school's expectations for its students?
- k. Are their visual and/or performing arts?
- l. How often are physical education classes held?
- m. If there is tuition, do you offer financial aid?

2. Middle School

- a. How many minutes of math instruction will my child receive per day?
- b. What electives are offered? How many may the student take at one time?
- c. Is second language regarded as an elective or part of the core curriculum?
What foreign language options are there?
- d. Do your science classes offer hands on labs?
- e. How do you measure teacher effectiveness and high teacher quality?
- f. What extracurricular activities are there? What organized sports? Costs?
- g. Are there visual and/or performing arts?
- h. How often are physical education classes held?
- i. If there is tuition, do you offer financial aid?

3. High School

- a. What percentage of your students graduate from high school?
- b. What percentage of your students enroll in a two- or four year college?
- c. Do you have a college preparatory program?
- d. Do you offer AP (advanced placement) or Honors courses? What percentage of your student pass the AP exam?
- e. What academic support will you offer your students?
- f. Will my child receive help with the college application process?
- g. What electives are available?
- h. What extracurricular activities are there? What organized sports? Costs?
- i. Are there visual and/or performing arts classes?
- j. How often are physical education classes held?
- k. If there is tuition, do you offer financial aid?

10. How can I support local schools?

There are many opportunities to support your local schools. Each school's website provides options for becoming involved, typically including:

- a. Fundraising
- b. Academic Tutoring/Mentoring
- c. PTA/PTO Committee Membership

11. What are the local Westchester/Playa community schools?

For more details and specific school information, please visit the school websites.

Schools are listed alphabetically by elementary, middle, and high schools.

* indicates LMU Family of Schools affiliate

+ indicates the school borders the Westchester/Playa boundaries

TK = Transitional Kindergarten (see <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/2822>)

a. Elementary Schools

i. Public Elementary Schools

1. ⁺*Coeur d' Alene Elementary*
Grades: TK-5
810 Coeur d'Alene Avenue, Venice, California 90291
<http://www.cdaelementary.org/>
2. **Cowan Elementary*
Grades: TK-5
7615 Cowan Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-1973
<http://cowantigers.org/>
3. ⁺*Goethe International Charter School of Los Angeles (GICS)*
Grades: K-5
12500 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90066
Phone: (310) 306-3484
<http://www.goethecharterschool.org/>
4. **Kentwood Elementary*
Grades: TK-5
8401 Emerson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-8977
www.kentwoodes.org/
5. **Loyola Village Elementary*
Grades: TK-5
8821 Villanova Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-0480
<http://www.loyolavillageschool.com/>
6. **Loyola Village Fine and Performing Arts Magnet Center*
Grades: 1-5
8821 Villanova Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-0480

- <http://www.loyolavillageschool.com/>
7. ⁺*Ocean Charter School (Mar Vista)*
Grades: K-3
1606 Culver Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 827-5511
<http://oceans.org/>
 8. *Ocean Charter School*
Grades: 4-8
7400 Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 348-9050
<http://oceans.org/>
 9. *Open Charter Magnet*
Grades: K-5
5540 W 77th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 568-0735
<http://www.opencharter.org/>
 10. **Paseo Del Rey Elementary Natural Science Magnet*
Grades: TK – 5
7751 Paseo del Rey, Playa del Rey, CA 90293
(310) 823-2356
<http://paseomagnet-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/>
 11. ⁺*Playa Del Rey Elementary*
Grades: TK-5
12221 Juniette Street, Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 827-3560
<http://www.playadelreyschool.org/>
 12. **Playa Vista Elementary*
Grades: TK – 5
5510 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90094
(310) 822-0074
<http://www.playavistaschool.com/>
 13. **Westchester Innovative School House (WISH) Charter*
Grades: TK-8
6550 West 80th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 642-9474
<http://www.wishcharter.org/>

14. **Westport Heights Elementary*
Grades: K-5
6011 W 79th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-5611

<http://www.westportheights.org/>

ii. Private Elementary Schools

1. *Carousel School*
Grades: Preschool – 12 (Special Needs)
7899 La Tijera Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-9222
<http://www.carouselschool.com>
2. **St. Anastasia Catholic School*
Grades: K-8
7390 W Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-2243
<http://school.st-anastasia.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>
3. **St. Jerome School*
Grades: K-8
5550 Thornburn Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-1678
<http://www.st-jeromeschool.org/>
4. *Westchester Lutheran School*
Grades: TK-8
7831 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-5422
<http://www.wlcs.org/>
5. +*Westside Neighborhood School*
Grades: DK - 8
5401 Beethoven Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 574-8650
<http://www.wnsk8.com/>
6. **Visitation Catholic Elementary School*
Grades: K-8
8740 Emerson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-6620
<http://www.visitationschool.org/>

b. **Middle Schools**

i. **Public Middle Schools**

1. *Ánimo Westside Charter Middle School*
Grades: 6 – 8
7615 Cowan Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(323) 565-3251
<http://www.greendot.org/page.cfm?p=3990>
2. *Incubator School*
Grades: 6 – 8 (2015-2016: 6-9th; 2016-2017: 6-10th)
7400 W Manchester Ave., Building K, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 338-2490
<http://www.incubatorschool.org/index.html>
3. *+Marina Del Rey Middle School*
Grades: 6 - 8
12500 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 578-2700
<http://www.marinadelreys.org/>
4. *Ocean Charter School*
Grades: 4-8
7400 Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 348-9050
<http://oceans.org/>
5. **Westchester Innovative School House (WISH) Charter*
Grades: TK-8
6550 West 80th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310)-642-9474
<http://www.wishcharter.org/>
6. *Westchester Secondary Charter School*
Grades: 6 – 10 (2015-2016: 6-11th; 2016-2017: 6-12th)
8820 Sepulveda Eastway, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 216-6800
7. <http://www.westchestercharter.org/> **Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet*
Grades: 6 - 8
6550 W 80th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 258-6600
<http://www.wrightms.org/>

ii. Private Middle Schools

1. *Carousel School*
Grades: Preschool – 12 (Special Needs)
7899 La Tijera Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-9222
<http://www.carouselschool.com>
2. **St. Anastasia Catholic School*
Grades: K-8
7390 W Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-2243
<http://school.st-anastasia.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>
3. **St. Jerome School*
Grades: K-8
5550 Thornburn Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 670-1678
<http://www.st-jeromeschool.org/>
4. **Visitation Catholic Elementary School*
Grades: K-8
8740 Emerson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-6620
<http://www.visitationschool.org/>
5. *Westchester Lutheran School*
Grades: TK-8
7831 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90045
(310) 670-5422
<http://www.wlcs.org/>
6. ⁺*Westside Neighborhood School*
Grades: DK - 8
5401 Beethoven Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 574-8650
<http://www.wnsk8.com/>

c. High Schools

i. Public High Schools

1. *Bright Star Secondary Charter Academy*
Grades: 9 – 12
5431 West 98th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045

(424) 789-8337

http://www.brightstarschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=104588&type=d&pREC_ID=204934

2. *Incubator School*

Grades: 6 – 8 (2015-2016: 6-9th; 2016-2017: 6-10th)

7400 W Manchester Ave., Building K, Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 338-2490

<http://www.incubatorschool.org/index.html>

3. *+Venice High School*

Grades: 9-12

13000 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066

(310) 577-4200

<http://www.venicehigh.net/>

4. **Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School*

Grades: 9-12

7400 W Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 338-2400

<http://westchesterhs-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com/>

5. *Westchester Secondary Charter School*

Grades: 6 – 10 (2015-2016: 6-11th; 2016-2017: 6-12th)

8820 Sepulveda Eastway, Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 216-6800

<http://www.westchestercharter.org/>

ii. Private High Schools

1. *Carousel School*

Grades: Preschool – 12 (Special Needs)

7899 La Tijera Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 645-9222

<http://www.carouselchool.com>

2. **St. Bernard High School*

Grades: 9-12

9100 Falmouth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 823-4651

<http://stbernardhs.org/>

Westchester/ Playa Community Education Partnerships

- 1) **Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa (NCWP) – Education Committee**
Website: <http://www.ncwpr.org/Education>
Contact: Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland / MCooley@mednet.ucla.edu
- 2) **Westchester Rotary Club**
Website: <http://rotary-westchester.com/>
Contact: Heather Martillo / hmartillo@renovagroup.hostpilot.com
- 3) **Westchester Family YMCA**
Website: <http://www.ymcala.org/westchester>
Contact: Ernest Johnson / ernestjohnson@ymcala.org
- 4) **Westchester Farmers Market**
Website: <http://www.westchesterfarmersmarket.com/>
Contact: Cynthia Rogers/ RWestchester.cfm@gmail.com
- 5) **Westchester/Playa Education Foundation (WPEF)**
Website: <http://www.wpef.org/>
Contact: Kelly Kane/ kelly@wpef.org
- 6) **Otis College of Art and Design**
Website: <http://www.otis.edu/>
Contact: Matt Teclé / mtecle@otis.edu
- 7) **Friends of Ballona Wetlands**
Website: <http://www.ballonafriends.org/>
Contact: Patrick Tyrrell / patrickt@ballonafriends.org
- 8) **LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce**
Website: <http://www.LAXcoastal.com>
Contact: Gwen Vuchsas / gvuchsas@secoteam.com
- 9) **Rotary Club of Playa Venice Sunrise**
Website: <http://www.playasunrise.org/>
Contact: Gwen Vuchsas / gvuchsas@secoteam.com
- 10) **Community Outreach and Opportunity Programs**
Website: <http://www.co-opla.org/>
Contact: Sharma Henderson / shenderson@co-opla.org
- 11) **Loyola Marymount University (LMU)**
Website: <http://community.lmu.edu/>
Contact: Grace Yao / Grace.Yao@lmu.edu
- 12) **LMU Family of Schools**
Website: <http://fos.lmu.edu/>
Contact: Darin Earley / Darin.Earley@lmu.edu