

THE WORD



"Let the word go forth...the torch has been passed."

1973 - 2018

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LAUSD and Its Decade Downfall

The decrease of enrollment in LAUSD schools

by **Abigail Hernandez**

staff writer

The Los Angeles Unified School District has been facing a steady decline in enrollment in the past decade due to a range of reasons which include decreasing birth rates, wider options, and multiple families leaving the area the district caters to.

Due to the drop in birth rates within California and the United States, there aren't enough students enrolling in schools served by the district. On the subject, Principal Richard Chavez shared, "I think we overestimated the birth rate," and later remarked that he doesn't believe the birth rate is showing signs of growth.

According to state reports, California birth rates have dropped to a record low, which has proved to have an effect on the declining enrollment in the district. Not only that, but birth rates don't show signs of growing in the near future. Other causes for the substantial drop in enrollment include the increase in options for both students and parents. Parents have more options when it comes to the school their child is attending, and they are exercising those choices.

A policy brief released by LAUSD reveals that enrollment in independent charter schools

LAUSD schools for charter or private institutions may be doing so to pursue higher academic goals.

The continuous decrease has also been affected by families leaving the area. "More than 1,100 children ranging in age from 1 to 4

have had \$91 million more in revenue if enrollment had stayed the same as in the previous year.

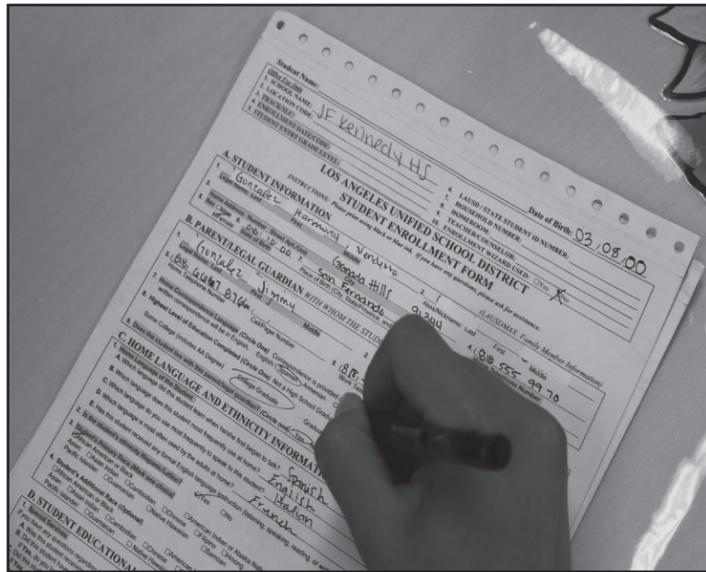
Through the decrease of state funding, schools are directly affected by decrease of enrollment in the district. Dr. Chavez believes, "If you look at the amount that comes into a school based on enrollment, when you don't have the same amount of money you have to cut back on things."

Although the district is experiencing a decrease in enrollment, English teacher Jamie Koskela expressed that Kennedy's enrollment has increased compared to other years.

Dr Chavez explained, "We have different programs that other schools may not have." He elaborated that Kennedy's increase in enrollment may also correlate with the safe and comfortable environment Kennedy provides to families.

The harrowing economy will likely continue to be an issue in decreasing enrollment as parents opt to move to areas beyond the bounds of Los Angeles Unified that are more affordable.

The district will have to make efforts in the following years to address the issue of decreasing enrollment if it hopes to return to its previous enrollment rates, which peaked in 2004 at about 750,000 students.



A demonstration of a student enrolling at an LAUSD school

has leaped from less than 5,000 in 2000 to 101,000 in 2015, while the district's enrollment has decreased by more than 100,000 students in the past decade.

Junior Priscilla Aparicio acknowledged, "Some charter and private schools have multiple career programs that many LAUSD schools may not have." She also mentioned that students leaving

left the city in 2013-14," stated Ethan Sharygin of the California Department of Finance.

The decrease in Los Angeles Unified's enrollment has affected the funding in both the district and schools within the district. As the district continues to lose enrolling students, it loses state funding. In 2016, the district estimated that it would

South America's Fight for Equality

Argentinian women are protesting for safety rights

by **Marion Mata**

staff writer

Women are fighting against the increasing femicide, mostly caused by preconceived misogynistic ideas, in Argentina in an attempt to spread the awareness of gender violence. Every 30 hours, one woman falls victim to the preventable acts of random violence in the nation.

For several years, women in Argentina have been murdered, and the men who are killing them are not being punished with the severity they would be in most other Western societies. For the most part, the murderers are not found.

Every year, femicide, the killing of a woman by a man due to her gender, increases in Argentina. When informed about

the issue, Kennedy junior Erin Digo reported, "At the end of the day, we're all human. Men shouldn't downgrade women just because of their gender."

Protests in Argentina, like the Ni Una Menos movement,

"At the end of the day, we're all human. Men shouldn't downgrade women just because of their gender"

whose main message is to not lose one less woman to unnecessary violence, have raised awareness. Junior Carina Rodriguez and sophomore Jerry Alvarez believe that raising

awareness is one of the most important things in making a change. They believe that constant protesting and speaking out on all media is a necessity.

Ni Una Menos, which translates to "not one less", was able to get the Argentine National Congress to pass a bill that criminalizes street harassment against women. "Catcalling isn't really taken seriously, but it is a serious issue. Catcalling is still a form of sexual harassment," claims Digo. The Ni Una Menos had to practically force the government to implement these laws through their campaign.

The murder and rape of Micaela Garcia in 2015 caused the outburst of fear and anger within the activist community. Garcia, an activist who was constantly protesting and was an inspiration to many other women, became a victim of femicide herself.

Her death added fuel to the movement growing within Argentina.

These women are working towards the justice of all women. Their goal is to get justice for Micaela Garcia and every other woman who has fallen into the violence of femicide.

When asked whether they think these protests can make a difference or do anything for women, Alvarez stated that these women can really make a difference with the right connections and commitment. He added that if people fight for what they believe in, then they will achieve it.

The Ni Una Menos are not only involved in the topic of femicide but also topics such as gender roles, transgender rights, and sexual harassment. This movement has spread across many Latin American countries and was an inspiration for the Women's March in 2017.

STUDENT NEWS UPDATES

Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser
1/17

PowderPuff
1/18

Kindness Week
1/22-1/26

CSUN Field Trip
1/22

PD Day
1/23

Fedrick Douglass Presentation
1/24

Social Media

Instagram @ thewordofJFKHS

Twitter @ thewordofJFKHS

Facebook @ thewordofJFKHS



Online Articles



The Winter Variety Show

Holiday Movie Cheer

The Benefits of Random Searches

Long Live the Princess

www.the.kennedyward.com

MUST-READS

Lifestyle

"Being Vegan During the Holidays"

Sports

"Girls Volleyball Season Wrap-Up"

Features

"Ricardo Talentino DACA Applicant"

Op/Ed

"Not So Artificial Intelligence"

Entertainment

"The Lack of Diversity in Hollywood"

