Resolution #07-1112: Continued Funding of the Child Development Lab Schools in Support of Student Access, Retention, Success and Equity

Whereas,  
The crisis in the California State budget and its implications for the California Community College System has considerably reduced funding to colleges for programs and support services to students and is currently threatening to close or reduce services at many campus child development lab schools;

Whereas,  
Campus child development lab-schools serve as instructional support in that they provide state-of-the-art venues for supervised student teaching and child/classroom observation assignments within the community college system’s core 24 unit Child Development (CD) course requirements, and if such centers are diminished or closed, students could be forced to complete assignments in a variety of private and not-for-profit child care centers that do not meet the standards of a college laboratory, or CD programs would be forced to eliminate the student teaching requirements all together, meaning students will be unable to complete their certificate or degree programs, in opposition to the goals and purpose of LACCD participation in Achieving the Dream;

Whereas,  
Many other disciplines rely on the Child Development lab school to accomplish course objectives and complete relevant assignments, such as Nursing, Dietetics, Culinary Arts, Photography, Psychology, Speech, etc., and without the lab school student educational goals will be delayed or derailed all together;

Whereas,  
These centers also serve as student support services by providing exemplary child care and preschool education to over 1,035 children district-wide (ages birth - five years old), supporting the participation of a diverse population of individuals who have young children and who might otherwise be unable to attend college;

Whereas,  
The average income of student parents is $17,082, which is below the federal poverty line of $22,113 for a family of four, and thus closing the CDC is counter to the principles of student equity, a core principle of Achieving the Dream, by discontinuing or severely limiting access to higher education for a mostly female population that is severely underserved;

Resolved,  
That the Academic Senate of the Los Angeles City College urges the Los Angeles Community College District to support the continued existence of all campus child development center laboratory schools in the district in order to provide access to quality childcare in order to promote student access, retention, success and equity, in alignment with the purpose and goals of LACCD participation in Achieving the Dream;

Resolved,  
That the Academic Senate of Los Angeles City College urges the District Academic Senate of the Los Angeles Community College District to stand in full support of all campus child development center laboratory schools throughout the district.