

**BUSD Student Assignment Committee**  
**DRAFT Statement of Beliefs**

The mission of the Berkeley Unified School District Elementary School Assignment Plan is to place all students in an integrated environment reflecting Berkeley's diversity in order to ensure equal access to: a strong core curriculum; enriched learning experiences; and individual, community, social and educational resources that promote success in a rapidly changing multi-cultural society.

In support of that mission, the Student Assignment Committee sets forth the following statement of beliefs regarding the goals and objectives of the development of a new student assignment plan to serve the students and community of Berkeley:

- We believe that the Berkeley community has a long and rich history of valuing diversity in public education and is committed to a student assignment plan that will provide all students with the benefits of an educational environment that reflects the diversity of the Berkeley community.
- We believe that diversity in education encompasses a multitude of factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, background, culture, residency, language, physical ability, heritage, religion, lifestyle, family structure, learning style, *perspective* and socio-economic status.
- We believe that education in a diverse classroom and school environment will provide Berkeley students with the best preparation for their future by developing their capacity for citizenship, leadership, team work, productivity, innovation, understanding and compassion which will allow them to thrive to their full potential in an increasingly diverse world.
- We believe that diversity in our schools and classrooms is essential to ensure an equitable distribution of educational resources of all types, including state funding, private donations, parental participation, and community support, and that the equitable distribution of resources is vital to provide equal educational opportunity and eliminate the achievement gap in our schools.
- We believe that diversity in our schools and classrooms will promote the never-ending quest for the highest quality of education by providing students with a "living textbook," the opportunity to learn from each other to appreciate the richness of the many world cultures reflected in their classroom and the value of diverse perspectives applied to problem solving and critical thinking.
- We believe that diversity in our schools and classrooms is essential to reduce, prevent and eliminate the isolation of any group of students, so that no child will be the "only one" and every child will see themselves reflected in the opportunities and potentials of their educational environment.

- We believe that the fundamental goal of the student assignment plan is to continue the Berkeley Unified School District's commitments to these shared values of diversity by providing diverse classrooms and school sites.
- We believe that the diversity provided by the student assignment plan should support the commitment to diversity displayed by every teacher and administrator in their educational leadership and curriculum delivery, and facilitate the District's valuation of the uniqueness of the contribution that each individual student brings to the classroom.