Understanding Inter-District Transfers

Claremont Unified School District (CUSD) currently accepts Inter-District Transfer (IDT) students, which equates to approximately 24% of the entire student enrollment. IDT students are placed throughout the District at all grade levels in the elementary, middle and high schools. Since IDT students are admitted based on satisfactory behavior and attendance, as well as a strong grade point average, the profile of an IDT student is very similar to a resident student when examining academic performance, behavioral outcomes, and attendance rates.

Key concepts regarding school operations that impact IDT policies:
- Funding for school districts is based on student attendance. Every student in attendance on each day that school is in session generates revenue.
- Core classes and electives are offered based on student enrollment and interest.
- To be a good steward of public dollars, the District must maximize operational efficiencies. This means classrooms are staffed as close as possible to staffing ratios.
- IDT students are accepted based on available enrollment capacity at each individual grade level and school only after Claremont families have been given their choices.

The impact of accepting IDT students:
- By accepting IDT students at schools with available enrollment capacity, the District maximizes classroom ratios and provides stability for students, families, and staff. Without IDT students, the District would need to limit the ability for Claremont families to select their elementary school of choice; creating additional combination classrooms at the elementary level; reducing sections of core class offerings at the secondary level; and dramatically reducing electives.
- Since IDT students are enrolled throughout the District (various grade levels and schools), the elimination of IDT students is widespread and would impact all schools.
- IDT students are placed where space is available; therefore, IDT students help share the fixed costs of staffing and school operations. If the District were to eliminate IDTs, only 70% of lost revenue would be offset with reductions in cost due to the existence of fixed costs.
- IDT students generate in excess of $14 million in operating revenue for the District on an annual basis.

As the District moves forward with placing a school construction bond on the November ballot, the IDT acceptance policy does not impact the need for long overdue facility maintenance and improvements. While families of IDT students would not pay for these improvements through taxes, they currently pay for improvements in their district of residence. In addition to the revenue that is generated by IDT student attendance, these families donate to their school’s Parent Faculty Association, various booster groups, and other educational partners such as the Claremont Educational Foundation.

By maximizing district enrollment through the acceptance of IDT students, the District strengthens its fiscal and operational condition as well as the quality and quantity of the academic and elective course offerings. Ultimately, the District is able to maximize resources and efficiencies, as well as offer a richer, comprehensive educational experience for all students by continuing the practice of accepting IDT students based on available enrollment capacity in our schools.