

What's the Chatter?

In preparation for the Fall 2014 Co-Location Conference at Loyola Marymount University, staff from LMU and the Family of Schools conducted field and phone interviews with co-located school principals and related Los Angeles Unified School District and Charter personnel. Initial analysis of those data resulted in identification of common themes that centered around three categories. These data are reflected here.

ANTECEDENTS TO SUCCESS

Strong leadership driven by success for ALL students

Transparent and frequent communication

Mutual posture of consideration and collaboration

OPPORTUNITIES

- Shared social service personnel to address students' nonacademic needs
- Collaborative work to combine experience, resources, and passion for education
- Shared community partners
- Innovative facility use
- Shared learning, professional development, and curricular resources
- In-common philosophy about partnering in service of children
- Cost sharing
- Shared enrollment, creating a "pipeline" if the co-located schools do not share the same grade levels
- Greater parent /community choice and involvement

CHALLENGES

- Creating dedicated time to communicate and collaborate
- Agreeing to compromise and to maintain transparency
- Anticipating and planning to allow for more time to make collaborative decisions
- Placing the best interest of children ahead of political agendas and/or desires of autonomy or control
- Operational realities
- Showing deference to both school cultures
- Inherent enrollment competition if the co-located school serves the same grade levels