



Berkeley Unified School District

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**Mayor and City Council**

2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

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Dear Mayor Arreguin and Members of the City Council,

We are aware that the Council is considering proposals from the City's Cannabis Commission regarding the regulation of marijuana dispensaries in the wake of the passage of Proposition 64 in 2014. While we support the safe and legal regulation of cannabis, we believe that licensing of new dispensaries should proceed with caution, and with children, their families, and their teachers and caregivers in mind.

We have long been concerned about high marijuana use rates at Berkeley High in particular, and, with the City's partnership, we have significantly invested in treatment and counseling for students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. We hope that, as the City considers how to regulate new dispensaries (with respect to quantity, location, advertising, and packaging), it does so in a way that is consistent with best public health practices.

We agree with members of the community who have urged that the following principles guide the City's dispensary licensing process:

- Seek to prevent use by youth and problematic cannabis use in adults;
- Seek to prevent renormalizing smoking;
- Incorporate lessons learned from tobacco and alcohol control;
- Promote economic and social equity; and
- Proceed cautiously.

We do not purport, in this letter, to make specific policy requests. That said, District representatives are available to meet and discuss specific aspects of the licensing scheme that are relevant to our mission. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our schools and families are not adversely impacted by this welcome change in state law.

Sincerely,  
President Josh Daniels  
Vice-President Judy Appel  
Director Ty Alper

Director Karen Hemphill  
Director Beatriz Leyva-Cutler  
Berkeley Board of Education