

## Center for Electrosmog Prevention

*Improving the public health by reducing electrosmog pollution*

PO Box 655

La Mesa, CA 91944-0655

www.electrosmogprevention.org

1/22/2013

To the LAUSD Administrators, Staff, and Technology Committee,

I am writing, as Director of the Center for Electrosmog Prevention, a national nonprofit, to alert Los Angeles Unified School District about the latest findings on the dangers of RFR (radiofrequency radiation), EL-EMF (extremely low electromagnetic fields), and the broader category of EMF (electromagnetic fields), including those from Wi-Fi, in a brand-new, sweeping report by 29 *independent* international scientists, experts, and physicians, published Dec. 31, 2012.

The Report points to findings from no fewer than *1800 new studies* that show extreme hazards from RFR and EMF, especially for sensitive populations that include *all children* and *those with special needs* (*special education students* and those with *medical conditions*).

This important document, entitled [the BioInitiative Report 2012](#), is the latest in an increasing series of authoritative documents that show RF and EMF to be carcinogenic, genotoxic, neurotoxic, and is strongly felt to be a significant factor related to *learning, attention, and behavior problems, including autism spectrum disorders, LD (learning disabilities), ADD (attention deficit disorder), ADHD (attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity), emotional, behavioral, and conduct disorders*. RFR and EMF are now known "clearly" to be hazardous to the embryo, fetus, young child, developing child, and older children, including and especially, though not limited to, those with the above disorders.

As you may be aware, on May 31, 2011, *the World Health Organization classified radiofrequency radiation (RFR) as a 2B (potential carcinogen)* due to numerous compelling studies that showed an association with the development of cancer. It is not easy to get on that list, which only holds several hundred known agents. So at the very least, we can assuredly say that RFR is a cancer risk for every student, staff member, and volunteer in schools that expose students to Wi-Fi environments. The authors of the BioInitiative Report 2012 feel that, on the basis of a significant number of these 1800 studies, EMF does now meet the WHO criteria for being labeled a carcinogen.

### **Biological and health impacts reported by BioInitiative Report**

EMF (including radiofrequency radiation (RFR) and extremely low frequency fields) bioeffects reported for humans and/or animals<sup>[2]</sup>:

- are CLEARLY established
- occur at *very low levels* of exposure - and lower intensities are not always less harmful - no linear [dose-response](#) relationship exists
- *can occur in the first few minutes* of exposure
- EMF assaults the cells
- include [genotoxicity](#) - DNA; damage to sperm, ovarian development and follicles, and reproductive systems leading to cancer, potential infertility and mutations.
- can be [a plausible biological mechanism for autism](#) (now at 1 out of every 88 children born in the USA, a vast increase)
- include [carcinogenicity](#) (cancer-causing) in humans

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- point to an association with the development of cancers, coronary, asthma, psychological and learning problems
- include [neurotoxicity](#) in humans and animals (interferes with the electrical activities of nerves, thus preventing them from functioning) - may be implicated in Alzheimer's, dementia, attention deficit disorders (ADHD), learning disabilities (LD), and behavioral disorders
- a decrease in melatonin, which protects against Alzheimers Disease
- can lead to adverse multi-generational health effects w/ chronic exposures
- impact brains of adults and children including leakage of the blood brain barrier (BBB), allowing toxins to enter sensitive brain tissue and cause damage
- sufficient evidence exists for [IARC](#) (International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization) to classify EMF as a known (Group 1) carcinogen
- *can include for children and adolescents*: headaches, concentration difficulties and behavioral disturbances
- *can include for adults*: sleep disturbances, headaches, and concentration problems
- indicate we are likely heading into a global epidemic of brain tumors due to use of cell phones and cordless phones

### **Children in schools - comments from BioInitiative Report 2012 (page 12):**

- "Children with existing neurological problems that include cognitive, learning, attention, memory, or behavioral problems should as much as possible be provided with wired (not wireless) learning, living and sleeping environments,
- Special education classrooms should observe 'no wireless' conditions to reduce avoidable stressors that may impede social, academic and behavioral progress.
- All children should reasonably be protected from the physiological stressor of significantly elevated EMF/RFR (wireless in classrooms, or home environments).
- School districts that are now considering all-wireless learning environments should be strongly cautioned that wired environments are likely to provide better learning and teaching environments, and prevent possible adverse health consequences for both students and faculty in the long-term.
- Monitoring of the impacts of wireless technology in learning and care environments should be performed with sophisticated measurement and data analysis techniques that are cognizant of the non-linear impacts of EMF/RFR and of data techniques most appropriate for discerning these impacts.
- There is sufficient scientific evidence to warrant the selection of wired internet, wired classrooms and wired learning devices, rather than making an expensive and potentially health-harming commitment to wireless devices that may have to be substituted out later, and
- Wired classrooms should reasonably be provided to all students who opt-out of wireless environments." (Herbert and Sage, 2012 – Section 20)

I commend LAUSD for its forward-thinking policies, established through board action in 2000 and 2009, that place children's health above the trend to expose children to RFR via cell tower

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placement on school grounds or close by, *and by approving the use of safe fiberoptic Internet access vs. wireless in 2009.*

I urge you to review [the BioInitiative Report 2012 findings in the document itself \(link\)](#) as well as in the BIOINITIATIVE 2012 - CONCLUSIONS Table 1-1 (attached), and a Summary provided in the form of an article I have written on the topic (attached).

Our children's health and learning are paramount. School districts that install wireless and cell towers nearby are inviting disastrous health and cognitive consequences, as well as behavioral problems that cannot be dealt with, as these would be rooted in continuous radiofrequency exposures. Please note that even a few minutes causes serious bio-effects.

**I urge you to continue to support the LAUSD policy of no wifi and no cell towers on campus**, to continue to discourage cell tower placement near schools, and to expand your policies and protect your students from radiofrequency radiation in all devices that might cause emissions. I urge you to revise the LAUSD Technology Plan to incorporate all of the above.

As a former Special and General Educator who worked for a large metropolitan school district, also a Computer Teacher with a Master's Degree in Educational Technology and six teaching credentials and certificates, as well as being a director of two nonprofits concerning environmental health, I am certain that this is what is best for students and all occupants of LAUSD. Technology is important, but *health is most important*, with learning, achievement and behavior vital. Your students will not fall behind, they will move ahead, using safer technologies. Your district can be a leader in insisting on safe technology, and their learning, emotional, and behavioral health will be evident.

I urge you not to listen to those who do not understand the risks, nor those who would advocate for unhealthful conditions for the students. It is clear that if everyone wishes to jump off a bridge, one should not follow. Right now, there is a "wireless craze" going on, not dissimilar to that which occurred after the discovery of radium, where radiation was used for everything including body paint, insecticides for hospital beds, and Xrays of pregnant women. It was over 50 years before the federal government passed legislation to control those exposures, despite known effects.

LAUSD must not fall prey to unwise decisions to install Wi-Fi in your schools, as the cost will be too great, in terms of both student health, achievement, behavior, and liability.

Lastly, I must provide a personal note. I am a person who loved using technology in the classroom. I have become sensitized to radiofrequency radiation, following installation of so-called 'smart' utility meters on my home, which use a type of Wi-Fi. Being sensitized to RF radiation is extremely uncomfortable and difficult to live with, impacting my heart, immune system and more. I would not wish this on anyone, especially not children, who have their whole lives before them. At least 5% of the population has my condition, called "electrosensitivity", and up to 35% of the population are known to be sensitive to RF radiation to some degree, according to scientists studying this condition for Sweden, a nation that recognizes "electrosensitivity" as a functional disability. In addition to that, a growing number are being added to these ranks, as I was, as the human body simply cannot tolerate being surrounded by unnatural radiation. The BioInitiative Report also finds this population to be amongst those highly susceptible. 35% is a large number to keep in mind. If you use wireless tablets or computers, and wi-fi, it is highly likely that you will cause a large number of students to become ill, have learning and behavior disorders, and become electro-sensitive, which is permanent.

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I urge you to stand firm and not allow any LAUSD buildings to install or keep Wi-Fi. Stand firm about the cell towers. Expand your policies to include RF-emitting devices. Measure the RF radiation in all your classrooms and keep it below the recommended levels from the BioInitiative Report of **no more than 0.0003 microwatts per cm<sup>2</sup>**, for sensitive populations (children) as a precautionary action.

I am available to support your efforts to protect the health of LAUSD students, and commend you for your past actions. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information. The future, the lives and health of millions are in your hands.

Sincerely,



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Attachments: This letter, electronically signed; BioInitiative Conclusions Table 1-1; Article "New Report Calls for Drastic Action"