

TO: Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

FROM: Kathleen Sundmark *aka* Kathleen Power, DC, DIBAK, DABCI, DACNB
[REDACTED]

RE: Adoption of WiFi in classrooms vs. wired Internet connectivity

Report Number: 157-1213
Dated: February 12, 2013

Subject: Project Definition and Funding Strategy for the Common Core
Technology Project Plan and Request for Funding Approval

DATE: February 9, 2013

Dear Members of the LAUSD Board:

[REDACTED] I grew up in the San Fernando Valley and attended school here until I left to attend the University of California at Berkeley. I practiced for 30 years in Southern California, the last 7 as a Board Certified Chiropractic Neurologist and Internist.

In the years since I closed my office, I have witnessed the massive proliferation of wireless technologies throughout Southern California. While it may be too early to quantify the health effects of long-term exposures in people who have used wireless devices the longest, reports and observations sufficient to create concern are certainly coming in, along with a growing body of scientific evidence. We are in fact seeing the beginning of a health crisis at a time when the health care system and the local economies are already heavily overburdened and when fewer individuals carry health insurance. Establishing WiFi throughout the school district will likely add strain to the health delivery systems of the school district in particular and Los Angeles in general.

A number of my former patients [REDACTED], describing symptoms attributable, at least in part, to increased EMF exposures from home wireless systems or community EMF sources: heart irregularities and tachycardia, memory disturbances, insomnia, concentration difficulties, tinnitus, dermatitis, infertility, headaches, fatigue, and more. These are anecdotal, of course, and the connection with wireless exposure cannot be established, but if they are able to reduce their personal exposures they often observe improvements.

Research has shown that children are more vulnerable than adults for a variety of reasons: thinner bone structures, increased tissue hydration, rapidly developing neural (and other) tissue, and smaller body size. There is no way to predict the health consequences of constant exposure during school hours for the full duration of their school experience. Some children may be sufficiently sensitive to wireless exposure that related symptoms might be obvious to them or their families; others, however, seemingly asymptomatic, may bear the same risk for long-term effects and potentially

serious disease. Apparently no provisions are being made for especially vulnerable children – the youngest, those with poor immune systems, those with diagnosed learning and other developmental disorders.

Because effects are cumulative over a lifetime, the effects of any new long-term wireless exposure must be added to other exposures in the home and community. It is not a contribution LAUSD should want to make to morbidity statistics.

LAUSD can meet its Common Core state standards without bearing responsibility for increasing the incidence of illness and learning disorders as a result of an unwise decision. EMF in the classroom as a result of WiFi is not necessary. There is an available alternative to wireless infrastructure -- cable and fiber-optic Internet connectivity.

The new *BioInitiative Report 2012* report says more than I could even introduce in a single letter to you. However, I will take advantage of the work already performed and reviewed in the *Report* by listing effects from its *Table of Contents* to remind you of what is at stake:

- Effects on gene and protein expression
- Genotoxic effects, DNA damage
- Expression of stress proteins
- Effects on immune function
- Effects on neurology and behavior
- Alterations in the blood-brain barrier
- Increase of brain tumors and acoustic neuromas
- Increase in childhood leukemia
- Melatonin changes, effect on Alzheimer's disease and breast cancer
- Effects on fertility and reproduction
- Fetal and neonatal effects
- Increase in autistic spectrum disorders

Unnecessary wireless technologies introduced into community environments are being challenged as people get sick and/or begin to do their own research. Nearly 60 local governments in California alone are opposing them. Legal actions have begun against companies and agencies that are forcing exposures to them. The IARC has classified EMF as a 2B carcinogen. The FCC exposure limits are under review in light of studies on non-thermal biological effects. Testimonials and case histories are being compiled by a number of organizations.

There is no hurry to do this. Study the body of evidence. There are safe alternatives. Please oppose WiFi in the LAUSD. Make the *Precautionary Principle* your guide here. Protect the children.

Thank you,

