

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN
Overview of advocacy work
Directed by Gene Krischer

Prior to our involvement with the Los Angeles Unified School District, commencing in the fall of 1997, Mr. Krischer did voluntary work for five years with the non-profit California Youth Theatre, working especially with youth at risk. Our initial participation with the LAUSD was assisting the administration at Carthay Center Elementary School. In the fall of 1998, we began lobbying LAUSD Central Administration and the Board of Education, to improve conditions for the children of the district. Our efforts/accomplishments include:

- A Board of Education resolution assuring that in classrooms equipped with security grilles, at least one window grille has emergency breakaway capacity, regardless of the number of doors, superseding the requirement of the California Health and Safety Code, 2-22-00.
- Negotiated with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Director of Energy Efficiency Solutions resulting in approximately one million dollars in incentives to the LAUSD for energy efficient air-conditioners, spring 2000.
- Worked with the Collaborative for High Performance Schools and the Alliance to Save Energy, resulting in resolutions from the Blue Ribbon Citizens Oversight Committee and the Board of Education regarding sustainable school design, 9-27-00 and 2-13-01, respectively.
- Featured coverage regarding our watchdog capacity, Los Angeles Times, 7-16-01.
- Certification of merit from the Learning Disabilities Association and Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly, fall 2001.
- Recognition from the Board of Education, LAUSD and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, fall 2001, winter 2002, respectively.
- Featured coverage regarding the security grille issue, Los Angeles Times and CBS News, 4-5-02.
- Featured coverage regarding air-conditioning contractual issues, LA Weekly, 4-5-02.
- Recognition from the Blue Ribbon Citizens Oversight Committee, 5-1-02.
- Persuaded the LA City Council to revoke its approval of the State School Facilities Bond, contingent upon proper oversight and accountability language to be included in the bond measure, 5-8-02.
- Facilitated negotiations between the LADWP and the LAUSD regarding the application of solar panels on district schools, spring 2002.
- Featured coverage re: LAUSD's questionable selection of project management firms, L.A. Times 6-25-02.
- Featured coverage re: LAUSD's expenditure of an additional 2.9 million dollars of public funds spent on a questionable agreement for the controversial Belmont Learning Complex, Daily News, 7-10-02.
- Ongoing work to improve the district's air-conditioning project (i.e. noise levels, air quality and energy efficiency) – 1998 to present.
- Ongoing efforts to support the Office of the Inspector General and working with that office on various issues, including air-conditioning, the district's questionable acquisition of a structurally deficient administration building etc. Collaboration with the State Controller regarding an audit of the BB Bond.
- Ongoing work with the Environmental Health and Safety Branch (LAUSD), the Acoustical Society of America, the California Environmental Protection Agency etc. on relevant issues.

Upon request, we would be pleased to provide letters of recommendation and any desired corroborative documentation, with reference to the above.

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