



## TEACHER FAQ SHEET

### **What is Project LEAD?**

Project LEAD is an effective law-related elementary education program established by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Its goal is to teach children that the choices they make today can affect their lives forever. Since the program's inception in 1993, Project LEAD has touched the lives of tens of thousands of students in public schools throughout Los Angeles County. It also has been replicated in several other states and foreign countries.

### **How are schools and classrooms selected to participate in the program?**

The program targets fifth-grade and is open to all Los Angeles County public schools. Each lesson has been developed specifically for a fifth-grade student level for reading and comprehension. Project LEAD gives students the motivation and essential skills they need to meet the many new challenges they will face in middle school. NOTE: Project LEAD is a volunteer-based program and although we try to accommodate all schools, we do not always have enough volunteers to accommodate all classes.

### **How can I learn more about the curriculum?**

Visit [projectlead.lacounty.gov](http://projectlead.lacounty.gov). Although access to the detailed lesson plans is exclusively accessible to facilitators, teachers may view an overview of lesson plans and gain access to teacher materials on the website.

### **Who is eligible to serve as a Project LEAD facilitator?**

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office encourages its prosecutors, investigators, field deputies, paralegals, hearing officers and law clerks to volunteer to teach Project LEAD. Representatives from other prosecutorial agencies also participate.

### **How are Project LEAD facilitators selected?**

Project LEAD facilitators are professionals who work in the criminal justice system and volunteer their time to teach Project LEAD. Some facilitators work in teams of two or more. That way, if one facilitator is unavailable to teach a class, the other facilitator(s) will be there to step in. With a team, the students also will have a chance to get to know more than one facilitator.

### **What are my responsibilities as a teacher?**

Please share your contact information with your assigned facilitator(s) at the beginning of the school year. You should remain in the classroom during all Project LEAD lessons. Facilitators are not certified to teach elementary school; and as a result, should never be left alone with the students. Most facilitators welcome your participation, especially when students get excited and a little rowdy. The Project LEAD website contains optional teacher materials that you may want to incorporate into your regular lesson plan or use to prepare students for their next Project LEAD class.



**What is the duration of the program?**

Facilitators generally teach one hour for approximately 20 weeks. Teachers and facilitators coordinate the day and time each week that works best. We try to keep the program as close to a traditional school year as possible, running from late September to May. Project LEAD does not have to start during the first week or two of school. Rather, we suggest starting the program once the school year is in full swing.

**What if I want my assigned facilitator to return to my class next year?**

Make arrangements with your facilitator before the school year ends. Then, contact the facilitator at the beginning of the new school year to confirm his or her participation. Los Angeles County schools must have a signed school agreement on file every year.

**Why doesn't my facilitator return my phone calls immediately?**

Please be patient. Remember that attorneys and investigators have many day-to-day responsibilities. An attorney's schedule is often decided by the court. Judges may order attorneys and investigators to be present at a moment's notice. Investigators may be called out to a crime scene and be unable to fulfill their other commitments, no matter how important they are. Court proceedings, especially trials, often take longer than expected, which may force facilitators to reschedule other appointments. You should not view their commitment to your students as being in any way diminished if facilitators are sometimes unable to be in class.

**What if I have a problem with the Project LEAD facilitator assigned to my class?**

Contact the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Public Affairs Division immediately at 213-974-7401 or [LEAD@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:LEAD@da.lacounty.gov).

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Project LEAD is an effective law-related elementary education program established by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

**Kerry Bigornia, Chief  
Public Affairs Division  
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
320 West Temple Street, Room 1162  
Los Angeles, California, 90012  
PHONE: (213) 974-7401  
FAX: (213) 620-1573  
EMAIL: [LEAD@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:LEAD@da.lacounty.gov)  
WEBSITE: [projectlead.lacounty.gov](http://projectlead.lacounty.gov)**

Facilitators, teachers and other school personnel are encouraged to call with any questions or concerns about the program and/or its participants.