



*Monica Ratliff – Fifth Grade Teacher  
for Board of Education*

*Master of Education UCLA  
JD Columbia Law School*

Over the last decade that I have been teaching, I have seen the district repeatedly make decisions that don't benefit the classrooms, don't benefit the schools, and, more importantly, don't benefit the students. I want your vote for the Board of Education because my experience as a successful teacher at a thriving inner city school and my experience as an attorney dedicated to helping people in need give me the tools to change the status quo.

I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona the daughter of a Mexican immigrant mother and Anglo-American father. My father died when I was 13, leaving my mother and I to raise my two much younger brothers. Neither my mother nor my father had finished college but after my dad's death, my mother returned to school. Four years later, I went to Columbia University and Columbia Law School thanks to financial aid including a National Hispanic Scholarship.

In 1997, during law school, I focused on using the law to help people. I worked as a Fellow at the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in Los Angeles. After law school, I worked at San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services in Pacoima. I became convinced that poverty was the overarching problem in many of our clients' lives and poverty can be attacked through education. I decided that if I became a teacher at an inner city school I could help families escape poverty by providing their children with a quality education and a focus on college and their future. I went to UCLA for my M.Ed because their program focuses on educational equity and preparing teachers to be highly effective in an urban setting.

Since 2001, I have taught third, fourth, and fifth grade at an inner city school near the garment district. When I first started teaching, my school's API (Academic Performance Index) score was in the 600s (which is not very good) but this year my school's API hit 814 – and we're aiming even higher. If my school can be successful, any school in the district can be successful.

Education made a difference in my life and I want it to make a difference in our students' lives. Our students deserve an education that betters their lives. Our schools can be successful. We need to take what we know works at successful schools and apply that to unsuccessful schools. Every decision I make on the Board will benefit our classrooms, our schools, and, most importantly, our students. Every student deserves an education that will impact her life for the better. Every student deserves a school that works.

Vote for me, the only teacher in this race, on March 5, 2013.

Please visit: [www.monicaratliff2013.com](http://www.monicaratliff2013.com)  
(818) 925-5797 [monicaratliff2013@gmail.com](mailto:monicaratliff2013@gmail.com)