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JOHN E. DEASY, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Ron Calderon
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT. Senate Bill 441

Dear Senator Calderon,

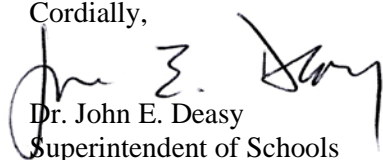
On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 441, as amended April 9, 2013. This legislation seeks to make improvements to the current statute in the California Education Code relating to certificated employee performance.

As the largest school system in California, we must deliver on the promise that every student we serve is academically prepared for success. The pathway to meeting the goal of graduating all students college and career ready is to ensure that highly effective teachers are leading each classroom every day. We have worked in collaboration with thousands of teachers, school leaders, parents, and community partners over the last four years to co-develop and field-test a teacher development and support system that builds on strengths and provides meaningful professional development on areas identified for growth—all with the ultimate intention to accelerate student achievement.

Central to our system's development and implementation process has been a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan, where teachers, school leaders, parents, community partners, and students have provided regular and frequent input on the multiple measures via open discussion sessions, focus groups, and surveys. The information gathered has been incredibly helpful in making refinements to the tools and the process of our new system, the Educator Growth and Development Cycle (EGDC). The EGDC we have piloted and will implement this next school year includes multiple measures that are anchored in Teaching and Learning, are fair, are grounded in research, and provide meaningful, timely feedback to teachers.

This bill will allow us to continue making refinements on the work we have been engaged in over the last four years and build upon the successes we have experienced. We thank you for taking on this important issue of strengthening an evaluation system in California that will support our educators and benefit our students. We believe the amendments, as proposed, are a positive step in the right direction and look forward to continuing our work together.

Cordially,


Dr. John E. Deasy
Superintendent of Schools

c: Members, Senate Education Committee
Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus