

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Richard Vladovic, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District

CC:

Hon. Marguerite LaMotte, District 1

Hon. Mónica García, District 2

Hon. Tamar Galatzan, District 3

Hon. Steve Zimmer, District 4

Hon. Bennett Kayser, District 5

Hon. Mónica Ratliff, District 6

**Re: Local Control Funding Formula Investments**

Dear Board President Vladovic:

**Communities for Los Angeles School Success (CLASS)** is a network of community partners who have been deeply involved for decades in organizing and advocating for improvements within LAUSD that make student achievement the priority of every school in the District. Our organizations serve thousands of families, students and teachers in Los Angeles. We believe in equity and access for all students and the inclusion of community voices in decision making. We are writing to express our strong support of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) investment decisions being made by principals, teachers, parents, students, and community members at the school-site level to ensure equity and impact for the schools with students in the greatest need.

Over 40 community organizations, education advocates, civil-rights leaders, and faith-based groups have signed this letter in support of our efforts to ensure that the decisions of LCFF investments are truly being made locally, and are aligned with student success measures.

School-site decision-making will create a finance system that enables local educators and communities to adapt, innovate, and respond to changing student needs in more coherent and effective ways than is possible if these decisions are made centrally. The chief thrust and purpose of LCFF is to close the achievement gap by redirecting funds to our historically under-served students. Low-income students, foster youth and English language learners deserve the opportunities to learn, succeed and compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The district must implement a common sense system of accountability using data measurements demonstrating successful progress in ELA and Math scores, A-G completion, suspensions/expulsions, CAHSEE passage rates, and drop-out and graduation rates.

The investment decisions you make in the 2013-14 school year are the first significant test of local decision-making under the LCFF. Our hope is that the final adopted budgets will truly empower local communities to make decisions that meet their needs.

**We respectfully request a meeting with you, Board President, to discuss our recommendations for a successful implementation of the LCFF plan at the school-site level** and look forward to hearing your plans for ensuring an equitable distribution of these resources across the district. Ryan Smith, Director of Education Programs and Policy at United Way will follow up with your office to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or wish to contact him regarding this request, you may reach him at 213.808.6407 or [rsmith@unitedwayla.org](mailto:rsmith@unitedwayla.org). We ask that you respond no later than Friday, October 4, 2013 at 5 pm.

As organizations dedicated to closing the achievement gap, CLASS is committed to collectively monitor the results to ensure that the decisions of LCFF investments are aligned with student success measures. We look forward to participating in the local discussions about how to improve educational outcomes for all children.

Thank you in advance for making our request a priority.

Sincerely,



Co-signed by the following:

All Peoples Community Center  
 Alliance College-Ready Public Schools  
 Alliance for a Better Community  
 Arts for LA  
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles  
 Boys & Girls Club of Carson  
 California League of Schools  
 CD Tech  
 Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)  
 CFY Los Angeles  
 Communities in Schools Los Angeles  
 Community Coalition  
 Ed Voice  
 EduCare Foundation  
 Education Pioneers  
 Educators 4 Excellence  
 Families in Schools  
 Future Is Now Schools  
 Inner City Struggle  
 LA Voice Pico  
 Lanai Road Education Action Committee  
 Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Los Angeles Education Partnership  
 Los Angeles Small Schools Center  
 Los Angeles Urban League  
 National Action Network  
 Padres Del Sur Este  
 Para Los Niños  
 Parent Institute for Quality Education  
 Parent Partnership for Public Education  
 Parent Revolution  
 Project Grad Los Angeles



ALL PEOPLES



COMMUNITY CENTER



FUTURE IS NEW SCHOOLS



Promesa Boyle Heights  
Proyecto Pastoral  
Public Counsel Law Center  
Students First  
Students for Education Reform  
Teach For America  
Teach Plus  
The Education Trust West  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
United Ways of California  
YMCA of Greater Long Beach  
Youth Policy Institute

