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News Release

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DR. RUTH PÉREZ RECOMMENDED TO HEAD INSTRUCTION

Former Superintendent of Norwalk-La Mirada District Brings Experience and Talent

LOS ANGELES – Superintendent John E. Deasy announced today he would recommend accomplished educator Dr. Ruth Pérez to serve as the deputy superintendent of instruction for L.A. Unified. She brings a wealth of experience from her start as a bilingual teacher in Florida through her recent tenure heading the neighboring Norwalk-La Mirada school district.



“Dr. Pérez’s track record of success with students who are growing up in poverty, and youth who, like her, didn’t speak English when they started school, equips her to lead instruction for LAUSD,” Superintendent Deasy said. “Focused on high academic achievement for all students, she excels with diverse enrollments. I am proud to bring Dr. Pérez’s contract to the board next week.”

Originally from Puerto Rico, she moved to New York at the age of 2 speaking only Spanish. After completing undergraduate education in New York, she moved to Florida. She began her career in Kissimmee at a high school teaching English Literature and English as a Second Language.

After moving into administration, she became an area superintendent in the Orange County Public Schools in Orlando. While there, the percentage of students meeting high standards on the state assessment test rose substantially in reading and mathematics.

Serving as the chief academic officer for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg public schools in North Carolina, she implemented initiatives such as: intensive reading programs for students in Kindergarten through the third grade; extensive training for teachers instructing English Learners, and professional development strategies to teach children of poverty. She also expanded after-school programs to middle school students and reduced suspensions.

In Southern California, while superintendent of the Norwalk-La Mirada School District, Dr. Pérez refused to allow steep budget cuts to stall student achievement. During her five years, the overall graduation rate increased from 76.5 percent to 94 percent. Performance on state standardized tests also rose—as did the Academic Performance Index (API) score, which soared by 54 points.

Dr. Pérez’s contract is expected to be considered for approval by the board on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

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