

Defend Public Education in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

The strength of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is that it unites the inner city and the suburbs. It brings together the richest and the poorest neighborhoods of the Los Angeles Area. Latina/o, black, Asian, other minority and white, immigrants with and without papers are all brought together under a single united school district with a democratically elected school board. This is the source of the strength of the students, teachers and communities of LAUSD.

The millions of dollars of federal stimulus money going to LAUSD will create a budget surplus. The massive increase in funds to LAUSD opens an opportunity to hire more teachers, upgrade equipment and increase supplies, improve school facilities, provide more jobs for the people of LA, implement a host of educational innovations to close the achievement gap, lower class size and expand LAUSD's beloved integrationist magnet school and PWT busing programs.

Instead of using the federal stimulus money to vastly improve public education in LAUSD, Superintendent Ramon Cortines is cynically attempting to use the shortfall in state funding to the District to force teachers and school employees into accepting layoffs and cutbacks.

Cortines is manufacturing a budget crisis where none exists. If Cortines succeeds in making the cuts, the crisis of public education in LAUSD will deepen, opening the way for the right-wing program-- degradation of public education, enforced segregation and inequality, charter schools, privatization, mayoral takeover and break-up of the school district, to gain support and be realized.

The youth of LA deserve more opportunity, not less, more resources, not less. Using the federal stimulus money for what it is intended can help advance the struggle for equal quality education for the youth of LA and realize the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Therefore we the undersigned:

1. Oppose all proposed layoffs of teachers and other school staff in LAUSD.
2. Demand that the hundreds of millions of dollars in federal stimulus money be used to keep the jobs of teachers and other school staff.
3. Oppose any mayoral takeover, breakup of the school district, and the growth of charter schools and privatization of the district.
4. Demand that all charter schools currently in the district be placed under the control of the democratically- elected school board.
5. Demand more books, more supplies, and smaller class sizes.
6. Demand the defense and expansion of LAUSD's magnet school and busing programs, which bind our district together unite our city and suburbs in a common fight for improved public education, and give the students of LAUSD the rare opportunity to attend racially and socio-economically diverse and integrated schools.
7. Pledge to realize the Promise of ***Brown v. Board of Education; separate can never be equal.*** Integration policies are the only method proven to improve the educational performance of Latina/o, black and economically disadvantaged students of all races, and to close the achievement gap.

Date		Name		Location		Event	
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Name (please print neatly)	Phone	E-Mail	School	City	Want more info?
1.					Y N
2.					Y N
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