



Bidding Farewell

In September 2018, I was honored to be announced as the next Inspector General for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Three years later, I am proud of the oversight we delivered to the District and the families of Los Angeles. Your Office of Inspector General (OIG) has worked tirelessly to ensure our limited resources are spent appropriately and efficiently, and our 80,000 employees, vendors and contractors perform as they are so entrusted. Our Audits have identified millions of dollars which have been recovered for the District. Our Investigations have addressed violations of laws, policies and procedures resulting in prison terms, penalties and dismissals. Proactive measures such as Due Diligence reviews have better positioned the District to identify and avoid potential problems. The OIG has held to its standards as an Independent and Objective oversight body, while leveraging ingenuous collaboration with District management and departments.

As I depart LAUSD effective October 15, 2021, I am comforted by our progress over the past three years. But I also recognize that we can always improve. We can always do more for the students and families we serve. Accordingly, with my departure I leave the following challenges for us to pursue:

I challenge the California State Legislature –

to remove the sunset provision in California Education Code Section 35400 and make permanent the Office of Inspector General for the benefit of LAUSD and its stakeholders

I challenge the Board of Education –

to make the reporting of suspected Fraud or Misconduct to the Office of Inspector General mandatory for every LAUSD employee

I challenge the Superintendent of Schools –

to deliver a 3-year Strategic Plan that incorporates established Board Goals to help drive organizational performance

I challenge the employees of the Office of Inspector General –

to work even harder and smarter in providing Independent and Objective oversight to LAUSD and its stakeholders to further garner the public's trust

William Stern
Inspector General