



## Board of Education Report

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Mr. Schmerelson, Mr. Zimmer, Dr. McKenna - Fostering Academic Research and Analysis to Support Quality Public Education for All Students (Res-060-15/16)  
(Noticed June 14, 2016, 9:30 a.m.)

Whereas, A quality system of public education is the foundation for democracy and for ensuring that all students are able to achieve their goals and contribute to society;

Whereas, Federal, state and local policies affect public school quality and must be changed to better serve all students equitably;

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District is responsible for providing excellent and equitable educational programs for over 640,000 students as both the elected board of governance for the District and as the authorizing body of the largest number of charter school in the nation;

Whereas, Charter school density in the Los Angeles Unified District has increased dramatically causing both opportunity and exacerbating stress on the traditional public schools;

Whereas, There is increasing need for collaboration and alignment in a meaningful system that supports the underlying purpose of common schools committed to the potential of all Los Angeles families and to sustaining the civic health of our region;

Whereas, Providing universal access to quality education necessitates a system that ensures collaboration, sustained improvement and equitable distribution of learning opportunities;

Whereas, Such a system should foster informed professional learning that benefits students in both charter and District schools;

Whereas, The Board passed the “Believing in our Schools Again” resolution in May 2015 and in June 2015, the Board passed the “Equity on A-G: Reaffirming Our Commitment to A-G Life Preparation for All” and the “Zero Dropouts in LAUSD” resolutions;

Whereas, Despite progress in raising achievement and an increase in graduation rates, there is still a significant equity gap in almost all measurable student outcome data;

Whereas, The Board has previously affirmed making every possible effort to attract and retain students and parents by engaging with all stakeholders to develop a framework for excellent public schools, and improved outcomes,  
for every student by relying on tested strategies and forward-thinking new models that include:

- Research-based curriculum and instruction designed to provide all students with equitable and

- rigorous learning opportunities to equip our graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary for college readiness, career training and preparation for successful lives after high school;
- Community Schools intentionally directed at improving student achievement, through a holistic approach to teaching and learning, by implementing policies and programs that recognize and support the social, emotional, physical and academic needs of all students;
  - Accountable school leadership and teaching staff who understand and project a clear vision and high expectations of academic excellence for all students;
  - A level playing field for our youngest students, who daily endure the disadvantages of poverty, by providing access to high quality early learning opportunities that are aligned with first-rate early literacy programs;
  - Equitably funded, sequential arts and music education curricula that advance creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills for all students regardless of their socioeconomic status;
  - An acknowledgment that student safety is our highest priority and that parents expect their children in our care to be vigilantly protected and educated in secure, well maintained facilities;
  - A meticulous and urgent review of our parent engagement efforts that recognizes that we are not always successful in creating welcoming and resource-rich environments and policies that support and encourage critical family involvement in student achievement;
  - Aggressive and definitive plans for improving student and staff attendance and reducing our unacceptable dropout rate;
  - Bold and consistent advocacy for adequate and equitable local, state and federal funding while improving responsible, transparent and accountable management of public revenues;

Whereas, Ongoing communication, scholarship, and information sharing can promote high-quality education for all students;

Whereas, The L.A. Compact (of which the Board is a signing organization), UNITE-LA, In the Public Interest, and the Advancement Project are organizing a 2016 *Symposium on a Quality System of Public Education for All Students* that will convene academic researchers and other key thinkers to collectively analyze how best to foster a quality system of education in Los Angeles that works with District and charter schools to support the growth and achievement of all students; and

Whereas, The planned symposium will foreground research on best strategies, policies, and innovations to increase equity, inclusion, and excellence in all public schools and study the effects of increasing charter density in the district; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District encourages and supports the *Symposium on A Quality System of Public Education for All Students*;

Resolved further, That the Board requests that Symposium participants produce recommendations in the form of a Policy Report or a compilation of Policy Reports on *A Quality System of Public Education for All Students*;

Resolved further, That the Board requests that the Policy Reports on *Quality Public Education for All Students* be presented to the Board within 180 days; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Board will review and thoughtfully consider the research and recommendations produced by the *Symposium on A Quality System of Public Education for All Students*.

