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News Release

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LAUSD UNVEILS REDESIGNED SCHOOL REPORT CARD

PARENTS WILL NOW HAVE A CRITICAL TOOL IN HOLDING SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE

(LOS ANGELES) — Parents will now have a more user-friendly tool in helping their child's school improve its academic performance and to hold schools accountable for the quality of their instructional programs. Similar to report cards for students, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is sending parents and guardians a report card grading their schools. The District will be distributing more than 600,000 School Report Cards to parents this month. Measuring the yearly progress and performance of the entire enrollment, it will show, for example, how many students are working at grade level or above in subjects such as English Language Arts and Math. Equally important, it will highlight how many students are improving and how many are declining.

"The success or failure of our schools should not be a secret. Parents, guardians and the entire community should be able to easily keep track of how a school is doing, and have access to that information in one place. This transparency will allow you to hold your school and this District accountable," said LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines.

Providing easy-to-understand information regarding school performance is essential to shared accountability for how this District's students and schools are performing. In addition to an overview, the school report card also includes how specific groups of students, such as those learning English, are progressing. Other useful details chart what it is like to attend that school and the goals of its students.

""This new and improved Parent Report Card will help transform our schools," said Board President Mónica García. "For the very first time, parents will be prepared to understand whether their community schools are living up to expectations—helping students to graduate, go to college and excel in life. Armed with this information, parents will keep the pressure on all of LAUSD to insist on excellence. The report card is an indispensable tool as we push relentlessly for 100% graduation."

(more)

The 2010 School Report Card, the second sent out by LAUSD, has been redesigned with input from parents and the community to make this annual summary of school performance easier to read and more accessible. Generous support from the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and the California Community Foundation made this possible.

“We are pleased to encourage parental involvement in the education of their children. Their voices are important in this discussion because the School Report Card is first and foremost for them. Access to this very valuable information will help them to work with schools on addressing educational needs and more importantly, to hold them accountable for their performance,” said Elise Buik, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

"We commend the District for listening to feedback and ensuring the report cards really speak to those they were intended for -- the parents whose involvement will be critical to ensuring their children’s success. As philanthropists, we play a unique role in bringing people together from various sectors to work toward a common goal -- to improve the quality of, and access, to education for underserved communities. That is why the foundation works so closely with parents, the District and policymakers to bring about long-term systemic change,” said Antonia Hernández, president and chief executive officer of the California Community Foundation.

In addition to school report cards sent to parents and guardians by mail, copies will also be available online at www.lausd.net/ReportCard.

Educating close to 617,000 students in kindergarten through the 12th grade on more than 800 campuses, LAUSD is the second largest school district in the nation.

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