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# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

January 5, 2010  
#09/10-109

**LOS ANGELES SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES AGREEMENT TO ALLOW  
DISTRICT TO PARTNER WITH THE STATE FOR 'RACE TO THE TOP' FUNDS**  
*Board of Education Acts in Anticipation of California Qualifying for the Federal Dollars*

(LOS ANGELES)—In a continued demonstration of its strong commitment to reforming public education and closing the achievement gap, the Los Angeles Board of Education voted today to approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that spells out how the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) would collaborate with the state to achieve the goals and win competitive federal dollars under President Obama's Race to the Top initiative.

"These grant funds can help us to provide innovative programs and better schools. We are committed to improving public education in our District," LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines said. "We will do everything possible to ensure our students get a fair share of that money."

Of the \$4.35 billion in Race to the Top funds intended to reward and encourage education reform and innovation on a state-by-state basis, California stands to gain as much as \$700 million this year. That money would be divided among school districts that have submitted the required MOUs. There is no way to determine at this time the amount any district would receive; however, LAUSD educates roughly 10 percent of students who attend public schools throughout California. That enrollment also includes a disproportionate number of disadvantaged students who attend underperforming schools, a target of Race to the Top.

Invited to participate in California's Race to the Top application, LAUSD was required to submit an MOU that commits the District to partner with the state to build a new system that is more collaborative, student-centered and data driven with mutual accountabilities.

Some of the core educational reforms include:

- Refining California's current rigorous standards and assessment system;
- Enhancing local data systems and coordinating those systems with state data systems to support instruction;

(more)

- Providing new supports for teachers and principals aimed at improving effectiveness based on performance; and
- Turning around the lowest-achieving schools using one of the four intervention models (turnaround, restart, close and transformation)

At the recommendation of Superintendent Cortines, most board members backed the MOU. The 'yes' votes were: Board President Mónica García and Board Members Yolie Flores, Tamar Galatzan, Nury Martinez, Dr. Richard Vladovic and Steven Zimmer. Board Member Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte abstained.

School districts must submit the MOUs to the state Department of Education by Friday, January 8.

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