



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parents Call on LAUSD School Board to Save Successful Reading and Math Program

Los Angeles – Parents Supporting Teachers, the largest parent-led education advocacy group in Los Angeles, is calling on the LAUSD School Board to reverse Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho’s abrupt and appalling decision to cut Primary Promise, a successful targeted intervention for struggling K-2 students learning reading and math.

“It’s inconceivable that the Superintendent would move to cut a program that many teachers and parents have seen work for elementary school students, in particular Black students and English Language Learners, to keep them at grade level in reading and math,” said Nicolle Fefferman, a LAUSD parent, LAUSD teacher, and co-founder of the Parents Supporting Teachers.

Rachel Wagner, a LAUSD parent and moderator of the group added, “We’re calling on our elected LAUSD School Board members to reverse the Superintendent’s unilateral decision to cut this essential program. While the Superintendent is not being transparent or accountable, the School Board has a duty to be. All Primary Promise specialists and aides were fired without warning or consultation. LAUSD has a record surplus, and this early elementary program saves money compared to intervention programs in later grades.”

All students take a diagnostic test in Kindergarten, and those who need support are placed in small groups of 3-5 students with a highly trained Primary Promise specialist or aide. The program has benefited 14,000 students since 2020. Extensive analysis, data, and feedback from teachers, students and families shows these students, in particular Black and Latino students, make dramatic gains compared to their peers.

“Data from over 5,000 students in 2021 show us incredible growth rates as a result of this specific type of targeted intervention. Why isn’t additional data available? Where is the transparency?” said Jenna Schwartz, a LAUSD parent and co-leader of Parents Supporting Teachers. “Targeted small group instruction provided by a reading specialist works. There is plenty to improve on in this district, starting with communications. Let’s leave this alone.”

Furthermore, the LA Times called on the Superintendent “to give the public a better explanation for the abrupt reversal of the popular program, particularly because research shows this kind of one-on-one learning intervention is most helpful for struggling students.”

Parents Supporting Teachers’ petition to oppose the dismantling of this program has close to 1,700 signatures on it: <https://chng.it/VVYgWyQ2mr>

Parents Supporting Teachers is calling on the School Board to restore the program in the budget, so LAUSD can keep giving our vulnerable students this individualized attention in reading and math that they need.

About Parents Supporting Teachers: Parents Supporting Teachers (PST) is a parent led public education advocacy group in Los Angeles with nearly 30,000 followers and is the only organically created group of this size exclusively dedicated to parent communication and education support in the entire LAUSD. Visit www.parentssupportingteachers.org to learn more and support our shared vision for equitable and inclusive LAUSD schools.

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