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# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES MAJOR TRANSFORMATION OF HUNTINGTON PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

Los Angeles — Prodded by School Board Member Yolie Flores to accelerate the pace of academic progress at her alma mater, Huntington Park High School, the Los Angeles Board of Education today approved a more aggressive transformation plan for the chronically, low-performing high school. The changes, which include replacing up to half of the current teachers and other employees, are scheduled to take place prior to the start of the 2011-12 school year. Huntington Park High School currently operates on a year-round basis due to overcrowding. The first day of school is July 5.

“We will wait no longer to provide a high quality education for all of the students of Huntington Park High School. We will no longer accept the shameful drop-out rates, the low percentages of students who test proficient in English Language Arts and mathematics, and the persistently low, college-going rates,” Board Member Flores said.

Seeking a greater sense of urgency in improving student achievement at the high school, the Board of Education rejected former Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines’ Public School Choice (PSC) 2.5 recommendations which included adding Huntington Park High School to the Public School Choice 3.0 process, and restructuring the 4,200-student campus in 2012-13. Instead, the Board directed new Superintendent John Deasy to return within 45 days with his immediate reform recommendations.

The recommendation to restructure the high school in 2011-12 originated with Superintendent Deasy, who shares the impatience of Board Member Flores.

“The status quo at Huntington Park High School requires an immediate and aggressive reform,” Superintendent Deasy said. “The restructuring process, allowed under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, will require all staff to re-apply for positions with the goal of transforming a culture that has resulted, too often, in failure.”

The new plan will include the creation of six small learning communities that will utilize interdisciplinary projects so teachers can co-plan across subject areas. The plan will also offer specific interventions, enrichment, inter-session and dual enrollment in Adult School or college classes to help improve student achievement.

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