

UNITED FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Our school system is in crisis, and our teachers have identified the critical challenges affecting our classrooms in Los Angeles.

We all agree that teachers deserve fair wages and benefits, as well as manageable class sizes; that students deserve additional supports such as nurses, librarians, and counselors; and that these challenges disproportionately affect our low-income students. We also agree on the need to secure increased investments for public education in Los Angeles.

This crisis cannot be solved by the Los Angeles Unified School District alone. LAUSD is on the brink of fiscal insolvency—a stark reality that has been acknowledged by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and other elected officials, UCLA Education Professor Pedro Noguera, President Obama’s former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, several forecasts commissioned by multiple LAUSD superintendents, and by the Los Angeles Times.^[1]

We urge the teachers union and the school district to reach an agreement and avert a strike—and to put their collective efforts toward securing

resources for our teachers and students without devastating the finances of the District. This must include resolving the issue of the District’s unsustainable pension liabilities.

We urge Governor Newsom to intervene now and help find a solution, and to increase funding for public education, building on initial investments he has proposed in his first budget.

Our foundations, nonprofits, and businesses stand united. Together, we must advocate for more funding to public education in California for years to come. The children of our city are counting on us. The time for collective action is now.



^[1] Report of the Independent Financial Review Panel to the Los Angeles Unified School District, November 10, 2015.

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*Titles & organizations listed are for identification purposes only

