

## Los Angeles Unified School District

### Local District South

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# News Release

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## Local District South Creates “Validated Plan” to Raise Black Student Achievement

GARDENA, Calif. (Nov. 19, 2021) — [Local District South](http://www.lausd.net) has created a new program—its most comprehensive yet—to help Black students at its schools attain higher levels of academic achievement.

The “Validated Plan: Promoting Equity and Access for Black Students” attempts to break down barriers that have prevented Black students from reaching their potential. The program, which has been placed at 148 schools in Local District South from Watts/Willowbrook to San Pedro, will provide students with more support, both in and out of the classroom, to guide their success.

High-achieving, exceptional, Black students attend schools everywhere. But when taken as a whole in Los Angeles Unified and in school districts nationwide, they have struggled by most academic measurements, in large part experts believe for social and economic reasons. Through its cutting-edge plan, Local District South intends to eliminate the so-called achievement gap, helping Black students rewrite their own narratives.

“Black families have fought for greater opportunities so their children can thrive in school,” said Board Member George J. McKenna III, who represents part of Local District South. “The Validated Plan strives to bring students, faculty, staff, community and families together to strengthen the village that prepares our children for bright futures.”

Board Member Tanya Ortiz Franklin, whose seat represents most of Local District South, agreed.

“Local District South’s ‘Validated Plan for Black Student Achievement, Equity and Access’ is a historic initiative that will make lasting change for generations to come. I’m so proud of our families and community members for being relentless champions for our Black scholars and showing us what collective strength looks like in action.

“I’m excited to grow this movement, to hold each other accountable and surpass our goals to ensure all of our Black scholars thrive in the college, career and life of their choice,” she said.

“Validated” is part of a broader program in the Los Angeles Unified School District, called the Black Student Achievement Plan. Validated’s goal is to create a personalized learning plan for each student that includes routine monitoring of test results and grade-point averages in each class.

“Validated” also provides more academic, counseling and wellness services designed for each student’s needs. It also lends more teacher training programs that helps build their cultural understanding of students.

“We have rolled up our sleeves and moved beyond talk,” said Local District South Superintendent Michael Romero. “We’re devoted to this plan unapologetically, and believe it ensures that more Black students will achieve more classroom goals, graduate high school and ultimately get a college degree in larger numbers than before.” He added: “No Black student will be overlooked.”

First-year goals in Local District South include:

- Enrolling more Black scholars into the gifted and talented program
- Raising math and reading scores for Black students at every school
- Preparing more Black high school graduates to enroll in college

The program, which came after two years of planning with parents, community groups, along with Local District South administrators and staff will:

- Place influential Black leaders and teachers at the most challenged schools
- Provide training that delivers culturally-responsive instruction in math and reading
- Connect students’ cultures and life experiences with their school lessons
- Monitor grades and provide academic support
- Ensure more Black students enroll in classes that prepare them for college
- Host Black parent workshops and meetings
- Increase leadership opportunities for Black students
- Create more partnerships with community and faith-based organizations



Local District South also named the program’s administrator. Sidra Dudley, who served for the past 11 years as principal of 156th Street Elementary School in Gardena, assumes day-to-day duties for the program as equity director.

Ms. Dudley built a reputation for establishing high-classroom standards for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade. During her tenure, the school won top academic honors from the state several times, including California Gold Ribbon and California Distinguished Schools.

Please learn more about the “Validated” plan on Local District South’s [website](#).

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*Sidra Dudley, pictured above*

