



Mónica García, Board Member

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Board District 2: June, 2015

Dear Education Champion,

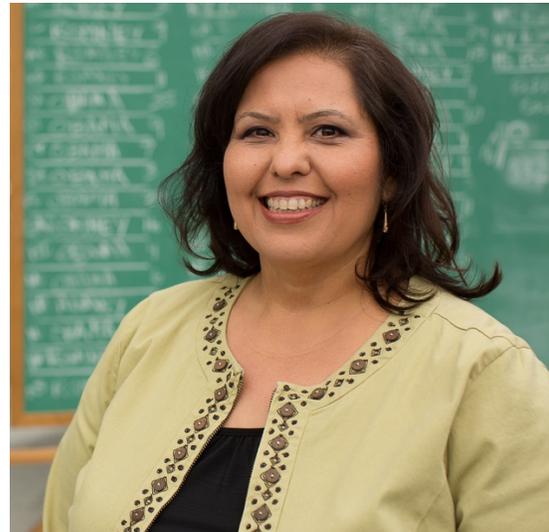
I recently experienced the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools' Training where attendees repeated the following exercise in unison: *Breathe in renewal, breathe out fatigue. Breathe in optimism, breathe out pessimism. Breathe in confidence, breathe out insecurity. Breathe in peace, breathe out anxiety.*

This moment reminded me of the phenomenal year we've had and the responsibility to fight even harder for our children in Los Angeles.

As a partner in this journey, join me in extending our gratitude to our youth that committed to their learning, our families that encouraged students to aim higher, our educators that kept true to their calling, our support staff that lent support in and out of the classroom, and our community partners that increased growth and learning opportunities for our youth.

We share in the joy that we have reached more students and families through increased personalization, expression of student voice, and focused engagement on learning. Collaboration, cooperation, and the expectation of a high-quality education has resulted in the following:

- Strengthened our GO East LA partnership, Restorative Justice practices in our schools, and our cross-jurisdictional collaboration for our youth transitioning from juvenile detention to LAUSD
- We've empowered hundreds of educators that have planned, created, and currently lead more than 45 Pilot Schools, which are school models that provide greater educator independence
- English Learner reclassification rates have more than doubled from 7.7% in 2004-05 to 17.5% in 2014-15
- Our LAUSD 2013-14 graduation rate, 70.4%, was recently confirmed by the State of California and we continue to celebrate more graduates than the year before
- In collaboration with our education partners, the Board of Education unanimously recommitted to A-G for All!, increasing support and intervention to assure college and



career ready graduates in LAUSD

Together, we have served as a reflection of our students' ability to learn. We've acknowledged their greatness and their humanity. We are the "keepers of the dream" for our youth and we must continue to fight until each one of our children gets to the graduation finish line.

Together, we have begun the process to transform the Los Angeles Unified School District. In teaching our children to read, write, think, and believe, we interrupt poverty. This academic year is complete, but our work is not yet finished.

I look forward to your commitment and your advocacy for our children during the upcoming 2015-16 academic year. ¡Adelante!

In the spirit of hope,

Mónica

P.S. Watch my congratulatory video to the Class of 2015 - [ENGLISH](#) or [SPANISH](#)

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