



COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OF LOS ANGELES

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February 10, 2012

The Honorable Monica Garcia
Board of Education President
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 South Beudry Avenue, 24th FL
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: OPPOSE – Elimination of Adult and Career Education Programs

Dear Board President Garcia:

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), a regional organization that works to advance the rights of immigrants and refugees, **I write in strong opposition to the proposal that seeks to eliminate the District's Division of Adult and Career Education programs to balance the LAUSD's budget.**

We understand that the current structural budget deficit at the State level has resulted in tough financial challenges for our city, thus LAUSD is faced with difficult decisions to address these challenges. However, the current proposal to balance LAUSD's budget is draconian and short-sighted. Its consequences would have a negative effect on our local economy, on high school graduate and citizenship rates.

Currently, LAUSD's 30 adult schools serve more than 88,200 high school students each year. These students are attempting to take credit recovery classes and graduate from high school. In addition, last year more than 1,500 students who dropped out of LAUSD schools were able to graduate by enrolling in adult school. Furthermore, 118,660 students were English Language Learners, 99,143 received vocational training and 80,363 received basic skills. This population represents 27.7% of all students served in LAUSD, but the budget of this program only accounts for 2% of LAUSD's total annual budget. Thus, the "savings" will not have a significant impact in the overall budget deficit currently face by LAUSD, but its impact would have detrimental consequences to our communities.

Programs such as: ESL, citizenship, GED, parenting, and occupational programs are essential for acquiring jobs thought education, eliminating these programs would make our city's economic challenges worse. The most affected will be communities of color. We are committed to building a partnership with LAUSD to work on budget long-term solutions, but for the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully urge you not to eliminate these programs.

Sincerely,

Angelica Salas
Executive Director

Cc: All Members of Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Superintendent Dr. John E. Deasy