



The Education Trust–West

Closing the gaps in opportunity and achievement, pre-k through college.

January 16, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENT

Dear Governor Brown:

We represent a group of organizations who advocate for the advancement of English learners (EL) in California and who strongly believe in the linguistic and cultural assets they bring to our schools. Nearly 45 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home, and in our schools, nearly 1 out of 4 students is learning English. The adoption and implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Common Core State and Next Generation Science Standards, as well as the new English Language Development Standards make it a critical time in our State to ensure that English learners receive the resources they need to excel in school. We must also prepare EL students to meet the demands of college and the workforce.

As such, we believe that it is critically important for the upcoming appointment to the State Board of Education to include an individual with a track record of advocating on behalf of English learners. We believe this type of expertise on the State Board of Education is necessary as we continue to implement the LCFF and address the needs of English learners across the state as schools and districts implement new standards. We would also encourage any candidate to understand the communities that English learners come from as 85 percent of California's English learners live in low-income households.

It is critical to have someone on the State Board of Education with expert knowledge of best practices for serving students who speak multiple languages if we are going to close achievement gaps between English learners and their native English speaking peers. Passing LCFF was an important step towards providing critical resources to English learners and other underserved student populations. We now need a voice who will be diligent about ensuring these resources are effective and reach EL students as intended.

Thank you for your serious consideration. We are excited about the opportunity to bring vital English learner expertise to our State's Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Ryan Smith
Executive Director
The Education Trust-West

Shelly Spiegel Coleman
Executive Director
Californians Together (CalTog)



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Jan Gustafson Corea
Executive Director
California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE)

Taryn Ishida
Executive Director
Californians for Justice

Ama Nyamekye
Executive Director
Educators 4 Excellence--Los Angeles

Luis Santana
Executive Director
Reading and Beyond

Dr. Barbara Flores
President
California Latino School Board Association

Cyndee Kia Loryang
Program Coordinator
Fresno Center of New Americans

Maria Brenes
Executive Director
InnerCity Struggle

Elizabeth Jimenez
Executive Director
GEMAS

Marvin Andrade
Director of Leadership Development
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Los Angeles



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Laura Faer
Statewide Education Rights Director
Public Counsel

Alicia Lara
Vice President, Community Investment
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

John Affeldt
Managing Attorney and Education Program Director
Public Advocates Inc.

David Valladolid
President & CEO
Parent Institute for Quality Education

David Sapp
Director of Education Advocacy
ACLU of California

Martha Arevalo
Executive Director
CARECEN – Los Angeles

Pete Manzo
President & CEO
United Ways of California

Anne Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
United Way of the Bay Area

Angelica Salas
Executive Director
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)



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cc: President Mike Kirst, California State Board of Education
Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, California State Board of Education
Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary
Cathy McBride, Deputy Legislative Secretary