



LA's Quality Schools Compact

A Partnership of the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles Charter Community



The Greater Los Angeles Context

Students Served

- Total # of students: 680,000
 - LAUSD is the 2nd largest district in the country
- Rate of enrollment growth: -1%
- % students in independent charter schools: 10%
- Number of district schools: 883
- Number of public charter schools: 182
 - There are more charters schools in LAUSD than any other city or district in the country

Contextual Factors

- **Authorizer(s):** Los Angeles Unified SD, Los Angeles County, the State of California
- **History of quality:** The median performance of charter schools has historically been higher than that of traditional district schools, although rate of growth favors district schools
- **Unique challenges**
 - From both parties' perspective: historic sense of distrust between the district and charters
 - Unique to charters: Facilities, funding and talent tend to be the biggest barriers to charter growth.
 - Unique to the district: drastic budget cuts, skepticism about the charter community's commitment to serving all students, and the district's decreasing enrollment
- **Major initiatives:** Public School Choice, new school construction/bond funding, development of new special education structure, teacher evaluation
- **Leadership:** LAUSD is governed by a 7-member elected School Board and a Superintendent



Participants and Goals of the Compact

Participants

- Los Angeles Unified School District (Superintendent and Board)
- The California Charter Schools Association
- Over 100 Los Angeles Charter Schools
- The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- United Way Los Angeles
- Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Shared Goals

- Common goals: To dramatically increase the number of high quality public school options in L.A. over the next 5 years; To increase collaboration and working relations between district and charter community
- Charter benefits: Demonstrated commitment to serving all students, Equitable inclusion in funding opportunities, Increased incentives for high performing schools to grow, replicate and share best practices
- District benefits: Increased investment and leverage in accountability metrics, increased avenues for gleaning and implementing best practices
- City benefits: Increased alignment in accountability and incentives for success between all public schools



Joint Commitment to Increase Number of High Quality Public Schools in Los Angeles

The district and charter community will work together to identify a low and high bar of academic performance

- All public schools will have clear expectations for accountability
- The district will be able to leverage such metrics for restructuring traditional schools through Public School Choice and revoking/closing charter schools
- Incentives will be created for high-performing charters and traditional schools to grow and replicate



Joint Commitment to Increase Number of High Quality Public Schools in Los Angeles

Work together to establish innovative opportunities for schools to serve special education students

Jointly, the district and charter community will create an alternative SELPA option for charter schools that addresses both the district's and charter schools' concerns around quality and cost of service to special education students

