May 22, 2019

ABC STATEMENT: YES on Measure EE

The need for new revenues for public education in the Los Angeles Unified School District makes Measure EE on the June 4th ballot too important to ignore.

Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) strongly supports Measure EE because it would provide much-needed resources to schools, students, teachers, and our communities. As a Latino advocacy organization dedicated to the economic prosperity of these students, ABC is at the forefront of the public discourse and community education around the critical need of resources. Measure EE will generate new revenues and provide an opportunity to target these revenues to the District’s most marginalized students. Until June 4th, ABC will work with partners to ensure parents understand the Measure and know about the upcoming special election.

Public education was envisioned to be the great equalizer of American society, and ensure that all children, no matter the circumstances they were born into, have an equal chance to succeed. But this promise has not been fulfilled. In Los Angeles, too many Latino students are being left behind. In addition, less than half of students are graduating high school eligible to apply to a California state college or university. We all have a shared responsibility for this and we must do what we can to deliver on our promise for our children to have a brighter future.

The underfunding of our schools means our students do not have enough opportunity to succeed. California consistently ranks among the bottom 10 states in per-pupil spending. This means that a school district’s resources often come down to how wealthy an area is and how much residents pay in taxes. Unfortunately, it is no surprise that in California, there is less funding for districts composed primarily of students of color. Twenty-three billion dollars - that’s how much more funding predominantly white school districts receive compared with districts that serve mostly students of color across the United States.

The passage of Measure EE can reduce class sizes across LAUSD, place a full-time nurse at every school, hire more college counselors, increase library services, and hire and retain excellent
teachers. These are all important and necessary resources and a cause that brought UTLA, LAUSD, the City of Los Angeles and numerous community-based organizations together.

Beginning on June 5th, we will join with parents, community partners and countless stakeholders to ensure the District is held accountable to decisions made with the allocation of these revenues. We invite others to join our efforts.

On June 4th, join ABC in supporting Measure EE by voting YES for our cities, our children, and our future.