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## Northridge East Neighborhood Council

*Making Northridge a Better Place to Live, Work, Play and Learn*

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November 2, 2018

David Ryu, Chair  
Health, Education, and Neighborhood Councils Committee  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Ryu:

The Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) voted on October 17, 2018, to stand in support of Reclaim Our Schools LA's Give Kids A Chance education platform that promotes the need for investing in teachers, community schools, parents, and most importantly our students within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Reclaim Our Schools LA is a coalition of parents, educators, students, and community members working to improve access and advance opportunities in public education for all students, so they thrive in the classroom, in their communities, and beyond.

As a neighborhood council, we see an unprecedented wave of teacher activism that is sweeping the nation. Parents, teachers, students, and the community are fighting for a better future for our students. We stand with our teachers' union, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), in calling for a real investment in our neighborhood public schools, so that all students have an equal opportunity. Furthermore, Northridge East Neighborhood Council support educators raising their voices and people of good conscience forming alliances to make real changes for our public schools.

Below are key community demands that parents, teachers, and public education stakeholders are supporting as part of Reclaim Our Schools LA – Give Kids A Chance platform:

- Fund Our Schools: California is the richest state in the nation yet ranks 43 out of 50 among the states in per-pupil funding. LAUSD must fight at the local, state, and national level to increase funding to \$20,000 per student by the year 2020.
- Reduce Class Size: Students have a better chance to succeed with smaller classes. LAUSD must stop ignoring the rules that protect students from huge classes sizes.
- Invest in Community Schools: LAUSD must invest in the Community Schools model, with increased parent engagement, broadened curriculum, and wrap-around services.
- Fair Wages Now: LAUSD must offer teachers a fair wage increase. LA's high cost of living is causing a teacher shortage that hurts students and teachers.
- Charter School Oversight LAUSD must regulate charter school growth and charter school co-locations on neighborhood school campuses. An unchecked expansion of charter schools drains millions away from our neighborhood schools.
- Support Students and Families Supporting immigrant rights, ending racial profiling in searches, and increasing green space can create a better learning environment for all students.
- Improve School Safety LAUSD should fund staffing and school safety plans so that our students have real access to counselors, school psychologists, and nurses.
- Less Testing and More Teaching LAUSD must increase educator discretion in testing. Let's limit unnecessary standardized testing that reduces critical instructional time.

As the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, we look forward to seeing positive outcomes with the bargaining process as well as the above mentioned implemented in the coming years so that our students succeed, teachers have resources, and parents have the schools LA students deserve.

Thank You,

Carl Petersen  
 Chairperson, NENC Education Committee  
 (818)430-0274  
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CC Scott M. Schmerelson, LAUSD Board Member  
 Mitchell Englander, LA City Council Member  
 Albert Ramirez, Senior Community Organizer LAANE