



Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2014

CONTACT:
Patrick Sinclair
310.998.7449
Stephanie Abrams
818.422.4123

HISTORIC AGREEMENT OFFERS GROUNDBREAKING PROTECTION FOR HIGH NEED LAUSD SCHOOLS

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:

Joan Sullivan, CEO of Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

Mark Kleger-Heine, COO of Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

Interviews can be arranged at Partnership Los Angeles office downtown or at Mendez High School

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT INCLUDE:

Markham, Gompers and Stevenson Middle Schools

Mendez, Jordan and Roosevelt High Schools

PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

ON PENDING SETTLEMENT OF *REED VS. STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al*

LOS ANGELES – The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools issued the following statement today regarding the announcement of a pending settlement in the historic case of *Reed v. State of California, et al.*

“At the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, our mission is about equity. We strive to empower all students with a high-quality education, no matter where they live. That's why we contacted the ACLU and Public Counsel and asked them to take this case in the first place,” said Joan Sullivan, CEO of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. “Today, thanks to ongoing collaboration, we have all parties coming together around a landmark

settlement that promises to bring students across Los Angeles closer to the educational opportunity they deserve."

The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools and then Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa contacted the ACLU and Public Counsel to initiate this lawsuit in 2009. At the time, Partnership schools such as Markham and Gompers Middle Schools stood to lose nearly half their faculty due to budget-based layoffs while more affluent schools would lose few if any teachers. The lawsuit alleged the disproportionate impact of such budget-based layoffs denied low-income students their fundamental right under the state constitution to equal educational opportunity. In 2010, the Partnership joined the case directly, represented on a pro bono basis by lead Partner Diana Torres of the law firm Kirkland & Ellis. "Our firm believes that all students deserve an equal chance at a great education, so we were happy to team up with the Partnership to ensure that budget cuts did not disproportionality impact the city's most vulnerable students. We are proud to work with an organization leading the charge to improve public education in Los Angeles."

An initial court injunction in 2010 protected Markham, Gompers and a third school, John Liechty Middle School, from budget-based layoffs, and Los Angeles Unified District (LAUSD) subsequently agreed to protect an additional 42 LAUSD schools from layoffs. Ultimately, the case worked its way through the courts ending with today's proposed landmark settlement under which 37 LAUSD schools qualify for protection, including six Partnership schools: Markham, Gompers and Stevenson Middle Schools; and Mendez, Jordan and Roosevelt High Schools. The proposed settlement is pending approval of the Los Angeles School Board on April 22 and ultimate approval by the courts.

The proposed 3-year settlement will bring a range of supports for teachers, administrators and other staff in order to improve staff stability and reduce dropouts at each of the campuses. These schools, known as "Investment Schools" in the settlement, will receive new mentor teachers, another administrator, additional counselors or social workers, support positions for special education students, support for special training at each of the schools, incentives for leadership stability, and more planning time for new teachers, among other supports. This settlement provides an approximately \$20 million per year to the 37 schools over three years.

The Partnership for LA Schools is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on turning around LA's lowest-performing public schools and piloting innovations that can be scaled across the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Launched in 2008, as a collaboration of LAUSD, the City of Los Angeles and the philanthropic sector, today the Partnership serves 15,000 students across 17 campuses in Boyle Heights, South LA and Watts. The Partnership is the same size as the Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, and Malibu school districts combined, and it is one of the largest public school turnaround initiatives in the nation. Last year, Partnership schools outperformed the district and state in every subject area covered by the California Standards Tests. Moreover, the Partnership was the

1 improving mid- to large-size school district in the state last year, the year before that, and over the last five years according to California's Academic Performance Index. To learn more about the Partnership please visit our website at: www.PartnershipLA.org.

###