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JOHN E. DEASY, Ph.D
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 15, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am honored and excited to begin serving as Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

In the eight months since I arrived at LAUSD, I have met and worked with many extraordinary teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and youth. The profound commitment of the entire LAUSD family to provide our students the best education gives me great hope for the future of this District. In addition, our students' promise to work hard and strengthen their voice for their rights has been equally encouraging.

Of course, we are faced with tremendous challenges, none more daunting than the budget crisis. For 2011-12, the Board must approve cuts of at least \$408 million, which is in addition to the \$1.5 billion reduction the previous two years. It is simply not possible to absorb cuts of this magnitude without a residual, negative impact on classroom learning. However, I can assure you that we are working closely with our collective bargaining partners to restore as many cuts as possible, starting with the classroom first, as well as to put pressure on Sacramento to help us restore the majority of these proposed cuts.

Regardless of the solution, schools will once again be expected to demonstrate improvement using fewer resources. Under no circumstances can we compromise our efforts to graduate 100 percent of our students, college-prepared and career-ready.

In that vein, I intend to institute a strong, performance-based management system throughout the District. Accountability is critical to maintaining the confidence and trust of our communities. All departments, local districts and schools will be expected to aspire, to achieve, and to maintain excellence, as I make my commitment to build the skills through professional development to make this happen.

Our work will be guided by three core beliefs: Start with students; Families are our partners; and Success is in the classroom. These beliefs will be essential to ensure all students are prepared for college and on the path to rewarding careers.

I would never have accepted the position of Superintendent if I did not firmly believe that this District has tremendous possibilities and promise. We will transform ourselves to be the best in the west and the first in the nation. I am eager to work with each of you on achieving and attaining the best for our students.

Sincerely,

John E. Deasy, Ph.D
Superintendent