



Partnership for Los Angeles Schools Releases Independent 10-Year Impact Report:

Report shows of the 18 high-need, K-12 LA Unified schools supported by the Partnership, a majority have surpassed other California schools

Southern California Philanthropists & LA Unified Alumni Melanie & Richard Lundquist also Announce Renewed Financial Commitment of \$35 Million to the Partnership

Lundquist renewal results in a total investment of \$85 million -- the 2nd largest contribution ever made by individuals to America's K-12 public schools

Los Angeles, CA (January 18, 2018): Civic and education leaders gathered this morning on the campus of Santee Education Complex, a South Los Angeles high school that was among the most struggling schools in the city 10 years ago with skyrocketing truancy and dropout rates and a dismal 27% graduation rate. Today, Santee has an 80% graduation rate that exceeds the Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified) rate, the nation's 2nd largest school district. Santee's transformation began when it joined the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (Partnership) network in 2008.

Today the Partnership -- which is not a charter school organization -- released an independent analysis by Public Impact of its 10-year effort to improve student results at 18 of LA Unified's highest need K-12 schools. The report ("The Secret to Sustainable School Transformation") shows of the LA Unified public schools managed by the Partnership, a majority have surpassed other California schools in statewide percentile ranking.

In addition to releasing Public Impact's report, the Partnership also announced today a renewed financial commitment of \$35 million by Southern California philanthropists Richard and Melanie Lundquist. This donation, combined with their initial investment to launch the Partnership 10 years ago, totals \$85 million—the second largest investment ever made by individuals to America's K-12 public school education system. Both of the Lundquists are products of LA Unified schools, graduating from Grant High School (Melanie) in the San Fernando Valley and Narbonne High School (Richard) in the Harbor area.

"Ten years ago, along with then Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and others, we helped create a movement to transform our LA public schools—working within the system from the inside out and the bottom up. Public Impact's independent, data-driven report demonstrates that this has been a winning investment—at an additional cost of only \$650 per student, paid by philanthropic dollars. Clearly, the Partnership can be replicated and scaled in school districts across the United States—becoming a national model," said Melanie Lundquist.

Upon release of the report, Dr. Bryan Hassel, Co-President of Public Impact, said: “While rigorous national research has found major federal investments having zero impact on student learning, the overwhelming majority of Partnership schools have moved ahead of other California schools in student achievement between the time they joined the Partnership and 2017. Almost two-thirds have surpassed 1,000 or more schools in the state. The Partnership for Los Angeles schools proves that success is achievable, especially in our highest need public schools.”

The Advancement Project and other Los Angeles civil rights organizations have an index ranking all LA Unified schools by need, based on factors that impact students’ ability to succeed, including poverty, foster and homeless status, exposure to violence, and access to resources. Based on these factors, students in Partnership schools are 3.5 times more likely to be in foster care, almost five times as likely to be exposed to gun violence and have one tenth of the resources available in most other communities.

“I am proud to share Public Impact’s report because the results are hard-won and attributable to all our stakeholders working in deep collaboration with one another,” said Joan Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. “School transformation is slow, steady work and not without occasional setbacks. There is no quick fix to turn around a school that has struggled for decades. We are all grateful to the Lundquists for their steadfast commitment as our key funders. I am grateful to Melanie especially for her activist approach and rolling up her sleeves to help us achieve success.”

Public Impact investigated how each Partnership school’s “percentile rank”—an indication of how a school compares to other schools statewide in math and English language arts—has changed because of the Partnership’s engagement. **Key findings include:**

- High schools have seen graduation rates increase to more than 80% on average;
- Graduation rates at 4 of the 5 high schools exceeded the LAUSD rate in 2016;
- Since 2010, high schools have generally increased graduation rates at a more rapid pace than the school district;
- All of the current high schools have made double-digit gains in statewide percentile ranking since joining the Partnership;
- 95% of schools have improved their statewide percentile rank in English Language Arts (ELA);
- Nearly 90% of schools have improved their statewide ranking in math;
- In both ELA and math, 63% of schools improved their ranking by 10 percentile points or more—moving ahead of 1,000 California schools—and
- 47% of schools improved by 20 percentile points or more—moving ahead of 2,000 or more California schools.

“I am exceedingly pleased with the Partnership’s results and how these gains have been made in collaboration with L.A Unified,” said LA Unified School Board President Mónica García. “Truly, these results show how when all stakeholders work together, important and meaningful progress can be made for our kids. My deepest thanks to Melanie and Richard Lundquist for their vision and for putting their faith and resources into our public schools.”

The Partnership exists separately as a non-profit organization from the LA Unified School District but works within its structures and schools. The Partnership also honors all collective bargaining agreements. Given its non-profit status, the Partnership can use private dollars and cultivate community partnerships to supplement—rather than replace or replicate—the resources the district provides to its schools.

The Partnership focuses on three key levers of school transformation: great school leaders; highly effective teaching and engaging parents and community partners. The Partnership works to proactively develop a healthy school culture to make schools and classrooms restorative communities.

“I admire Melanie and Richard Lundquist for generously and without reservation making such a long-term investment to meet the needs of the students and families within LA Unified,” said LA Unified Interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchian. “There are very few other district/non-profit collaborations like ours in the US – especially at this scale and with these exemplary results.”

About the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools:

Launched in 2007, the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools is a nonprofit organization that serves 14,500 students across 18 campuses in Watts, Boyle Heights and South Los Angeles, California. The Partnership is one of the largest in-district public school transformation organizations in the U.S. and its model combines the rigor and innovation of instructional leadership programs with authentic community partnerships and family engagement to transform district public schools and lead transformational system-wide reforms. As an in-district partner, the Partnership works within the Los Angeles Unified School District context, which includes honoring all collective bargaining agreements for its teachers.

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