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To: wncouncil@hotmail.com  
Date: Tue, 17 Nov 2009 12:53:30 -0800  
Subject: A Historic Moment for LA Schools

Good Afternoon-

We have arrived at a major milestone in our effort to turn around the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Back in August, the School Board and Superintendent made it very clear that we will no longer tolerate failure in our schools. The Board took historic action by passing the School Choice resolution, allowing outside operators with proven records of success to compete for the chance to run new LAUSD schools and take over failing ones.

Yesterday was the deadline for outside operators to submit Letters of Intent to the Superintendent to operate the schools available under the School Choice process. I am proud to say that numerous organizations, including teacher collaboratives, Charter organizations, my Partnership schools, the LAUSD, UTLA, as well as reform organizations like the Youth Policy Institute, submitted letters to operate the schools.

These groups will now have two months to draft their plans for the schools. The plans must be metrics-driven, aiming for reform. After these plans are submitted, they will be discussed throughout communities around Los Angeles, so parents, teachers, and even students can weigh in and give their opinion. We want to engage everyone in this process and are eager to hear feedback.

This is real change. Think about it. Groups are competing to better serve and educate our lowest performing students. The community is involved. And all parties - the school board, teachers, parents, charter schools, traditional district schools, Partnership schools, pilot schools, unions, and others - are working together to make sure that every child in Los Angeles gets a quality education. I'll make sure to keep you updated as this exciting process moves forward.

Thank you,  
Antonio Villaraigosa