

JUL 18 2008

## MOTION

On Wednesday, July 16, 2008, a study was released that addressed the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) dropout rate data. The report found that LAUSD four-year dropout rate of 33.6 percent is well above the statewide average of 24.2 percent, which calls for needed improvement to academic standards in the nation's second largest school district.

The report found that the statewide dropout rate for white students was 15.2 percent. For African-Americans, it was 46.2 percent; for Latinos, 30.3 percent; and for Asians, 10.2 percent. These numbers highlight the achievement gap facing nonwhite students, who had significantly higher dropout rates.

The LAUSD's dropout rate previously had been estimated at anywhere between 24 percent and 50 percent, a range blamed on inadequate methods tracking the statistic. The LAUSD officials and education experts agree with the state's findings and believe that this new data should lead to addressing the cause of low academic achievement.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who previously used the dropout rate issue as leverage to take control of a handful of schools, indicates in an article in the Daily News today that the dropout rate is higher than 33 percent. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell has indicated the new numbers show that state's schools are facing a crisis.

In any case, a dropout rate of 33 percent is too high. It's unacceptable and must be addressed.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide a report to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee on this matter.

PRESENTED BY: 

JOSE HUIZAR

Councilmember 14<sup>th</sup> DistrictSECONDED BY: 

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