



April 26, 2011

Eddie Hartenstein
Publisher & Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles Times
202 W. 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Mr. Hartenstein:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, all signatories to the [L.A. Compact](#), we urgently request that the Los Angeles Times give serious consideration to not publicly release individual teacher “value-added” or academic growth over time (AGT) ratings.

As the L.A. Times has reported and urged, the District is moving forward with an organized process linking teacher evaluation and development. School site AGT scores were released last week and confidential individual teacher ratings will be shared with teachers next month. The individual evaluations, in our opinion, should be private conversations that are intended to help professionals improve their performance in the classroom.

The data that the Times would release on individual teachers is not the same data that the teachers will be receiving from LAUSD. This is very likely to create confusion for many educators and parents.

Though both models being used by the Times and the District are value-added models, there are several reasons why some of the results are different:

- Model differences: There are differences in the models, some of which has to do with the amount of data available to the Times and some with modeling choices.
- In terms of data, the District has incorporated student demographic characteristics into their model.
- Results reported: While the Times has reported a school-wide result, the district results separate English Language Arts and Math.
- The Times has aggregated results across multiple years, while the District is reporting one year and three year results.
- Reporting precision: The District utilize a measure of statistical confidence, positive or negative AGT results are only reported when the data supports that level of precision.

Thank you in advance for reconsidering your release of individual teacher “value-added” ratings.

Sincerely,

John Deasy
Superintendent
Los Angeles Unified School District

Elise Buik
President & CEO
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Mónica García
President, Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District

Gary L. Toebben
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