



Diplomas For All: Los Angeles Dropout Prevention Summit

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Director**

Dropout Prevention & Recovery

**Twenty five years since the
release of the landmark
“A Nation at Risk” report, the
state of our education and
our young people remain
very much at risk.**

More than one million American high school students dropout every year



- That's one student every 26 seconds, and nearly 7,000 young people every school day
- In LAUSD only 48% of our students graduate on time
- 12,008 LAUSD students dropped out of school (grades 9-12) in the 2006-07 school year

Impact on Our Youth



One out of five 16-24 year olds in the city of Los Angeles are out of school and out of work

- Fogg & Harrington, 2005

America's Promise Alliance



- America's Promise Alliance is the largest multi-sector collaborative dedicated to children and youth.
- More than 300 alliance partners- includes non-profits, faith-based organizations and advocacy groups
- Selected high school completion rates as the benchmark against which to measure success and the focal point of its mobilization efforts
- Supporting 50 states and at least 50 city Dropout Prevention Summits to be held by 2010
- America's Promise awarded a grant to LAUSD to host the Los Angeles Summit

America's Promise Alliance



Advocates 5 key supports (promises) for children

- Caring Adults – including parents, teachers, coaches and neighbors
- Safe Places- community center, library, school
- A Healthy Start- including good nutrition and health insurance
- An Effective education – quality learning environment, relevant curriculum, high expectations, support and guidance
- Opportunities to Help Others – self-esteem soars when kids give back to their community

Summit Goals



- Increase public awareness of the dropout crisis in Los Angeles
- Involve the entire community including the Mayor, Superintendent, business leaders, non profit organizations, child advocates, school administrators, teachers, parent and students
- Stimulate discussion of the problem and generate solutions

Expected Outcomes



- **Not a one-time event, but the launch of an ongoing campaign to increase graduation rates and ensure educational success for the youth of Los Angeles**
- **Teams composed of all stakeholders working together to develop strategies to address and eliminate the dropout crisis**
- **Develop an Action Plan to increase graduation rates and improve college readiness**
- **Establish an ongoing, city-wide collaborative to implement Action Plan**

Summit Planning



- **Planning committee meets regularly since May, 2008**
- **Committee includes parents, students, educators, non-profits, city/government offices, businesses, corporations**
- **Secured sponsorship from:**
 - **America's Promise**
 - **State Farm Insurance**
 - **The Annenberg Foundation**
 - **The United Way**
 - **Conducted parent/student focus groups**
 - **Inviting participants**

Agenda



- Welcome by Board Member Yolie Flores-Aguilar and Elementary Student
- Student lead VIP Panel Discussion with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Superintendent Ramon Cortines, Board President, Monica Garcia, United Way President, Elise Buick, and elementary, middle, and high school students
- Presentation of The Dropout issue in Los Angeles
- Break out sessions
 - Students and parents sharing data from focus groups
 - Group discussion of issues that lead to the dropout problem
 - Generating solutions and prioritizing strategies
- Lunch
- Report back by groups
- Guest Speaker
- Ceremonial signing of Commitment to Action



Diplomas for All: Los Angeles Dropout Prevention Summit Our Future, Our Solution

June 5, 2009

Los Angeles Central High School #9

7:30am-3:30am

Please join us!



my
FUTURE
my DECISION

ABOUT AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE



WHO WE ARE

Building on the legacy of our founder, General Colin Powell, we are the leader in forging a strong and effective partnership alliance committed to seeing that children experience the fundamental resources they need to succeed—the **Five Promises**—at home, in school and in the community.

Together, we know that the success of our children is grounded in having **caring adults in their lives, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others.**

We are the largest alliance of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, policymakers, advocacy and faith groups committed to harnessing the collective strengths of a partner network. We are proof that the power of the alliance is greater than the sum of its separate parts.

WHY WE'RE HERE

We are an alliance born of the recognition that when too many of our children are at risk, we are a nation at risk. With less than one-third of America's young people receiving enough of the essential resources they need for success, we're witnessing greater risk of substance abuse, crime and school dropouts. We can't afford this loss of human potential and, therefore, reversing this tide must be a national priority.

We've seen firsthand that the more children experience the Five Promises, the more likely they are to graduate from high school and succeed in life. It will take all sectors to rally around our children to ensure that more young people graduate from high school and are prepared for college, work and life. If we are to secure our nation's economic future, we must reverse the dropout and college-preparedness crisis.

WHAT WE DO

Through increasing awareness, advocating for children and engaging in a few powerful initiatives, we use the strength of our partnerships to more effectively and strategically bring the power of the Five Promises to America's children—enabling them to have the resources they need to graduate from high school, lead happier, healthier and productive lives and build a stronger society.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our web site at www.americaspromise.org

Dropout Prevention Campaign

Nationwide, nearly one in three U.S. high school students drops out before graduating. In total, approximately 1.2 million students drop out each year—7,000 every school day, one every 26 seconds.

To address this dropout crisis, the Alliance will support 50 state and 50 city dropout prevention summits to be held by 2010. These summits are part of a national *Dropout Prevention Campaign* to increase awareness, encourage collaboration and facilitate action in those states and communities that want to improve their graduation rates.

Through these summits and this campaign, the Alliance will bring more Promises to 15 million of our nation's most disadvantaged young people, and as a result—improve high school completion rates.

Dropout Crisis in Los Angeles, Ca:

- Los Angeles Unified School District 06-07 Dropout Rate: 25.2%
- Los Angeles County 06-07 Dropout Rate: 17.9%

OUR BOARD CHAIR

Alma J. Powell

OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Marguerite W. Kondracke

Diplomas for All

Los Angeles Dropout Prevention Summit

Our Future, Our Solution



Every 26 seconds an American student drops out of school. Now is the time to address this crisis. We invite you to join Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LAUSD Superintendent Ramón Cortines, LAUSD Board President Monica García and other community leaders for the **Los Angeles Dropout Prevention Summit** to be held on **Friday, June 5, 2009**. This summit is by **invitation only**. This is your opportunity to join policymakers, funders, and thought leaders in a new solution-focused coalition determined to unleash the limitless potential of our students and shape a better tomorrow.

The Los Angeles Unified School District is the second largest school district in the country. The devastating truth is that only 48% of our students graduate. Increasing the number of graduates by half would generate \$1 Billion in economic benefits to the community. High dropout rates mean lost futures, lost revenues, increased crime and incarceration rates, and increased public and private costs at the local and state levels.

America's Promise Alliance—started by General Colin Powell and his wife, Alma—has selected Los Angeles and more than 100 other cities and states across the country to hold Dropout Prevention Summits to raise awareness about this problem, and strive toward measurable results. Here in LA, the United Way, State Farm Insurance and the Annenberg Foundation have already committed financially to support the Summit and the high-impact work to follow it. Many community organizations, parents and students have offered their expertise and input.

Join Us at Los Angeles Central High School #9, Friday, June 5, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The action-packed Summit will feature:

- An Opening Plenary Session with the Mayor, LAUSD Superintendent and Board Members;
- An exciting roster of speakers, students and parents to help guide the vision for the next decade; and

Inside Every Student is a Graduate

- Teams working as think tanks to develop strategies to address and eliminate the dropout crisis.

This is not a one-time event, but the launch of an ongoing campaign to increase graduation rates and ensure student success. ***Now is the moment for action.*** We hope you will help us to seize it.

Your reservation must be confirmed by May 15, 2009.

This invitation is not transferable.

**Register now by contacting Debra Duardo at (213)241-4967
or email Debra.Duardo@lausd.net.**

Detailed information, including preparation and logistic materials, will be sent at the end of May.