

Students Matter

Defending students' rights through impact litigation

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Students Matter Applauds and Thanks Outgoing Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Dr. John Deasy

Under Dr. Deasy's Leadership, Students in Los Angeles Unified Experienced Higher Graduation Rates and a Dramatic Drop in Suspensions

LOS ANGELES, CA – Today, the Board of Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District announced Dr. John Deasy tendered his resignation as Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Students Matter, the national education nonprofit that sponsored the historic education equality lawsuit *Vergara v. California*, issued the following statement:

"Students Matter applauds the courageous leadership of outgoing Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Dr. John Deasy. Dr. Deasy's tireless commitment to making education equality a reality in Los Angeles Unified has led to improved academic performance, a dramatic drop in suspensions and expulsions, and steadily rising graduation rates. We commend Dr. Deasy for his work, and look forward to working with him in any future capacity.

"And while we are disappointed that Dr. Deasy will no longer helm the nation's second largest school district, we also recognize that for all his successes, Dr. Deasy has been met with an ever-challenging and dysfunctional political environment as LAUSD Superintendent. Dr. Deasy is the fourth California Superintendent in the last 2 years—all from some of the most diverse and challenging districts in the state—to be driven out of his post in part because of public positions he took advocating for significant changes to California's education policies. Like Dr. Deasy, student-focused leaders in Oakland,

Sacramento, and Emeryville have been ousted for taking a public stance on common-sense issues that prioritize the success of our kids – that every child should have the best possible teacher regardless of statute or law; that the location of a child’s school should not have an impact on their life outcome or the quality of their educator; and that schools must innovate and embrace new ideas to better prepare our students for the challenges of the future.

“This is why *Vergara v. California* was necessary— the trial removed the politics from our education system and laid bare the policies that are impeding educational equity for all our students. We—parents, teachers, community and political leaders—must demand the politics change and focus instead on the needs of our kids.”

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Students Matter is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to sponsoring impact litigation to promote access to quality public education. Learn more at studentsmatter.org.