



Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network (PLAN)

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FIVE-POINT EDUCATION PLATFORM

1. INCREASED FUNDING TO SUPPORT EQUAL EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Restore \$2 billion Gov. Schwarzenegger took away from public schools last year
- Increase per-pupil spending **and equitable resources** to support:
 - Books and adequate facilities for all students
 - Arts, music, sports, libraries, **counseling, and language access** for **ALL** students
 - Small class sizes for all students – **maximum of 20 students per class, adjustment for age groups and developmental needs**
 - Qualified, high-quality teachers in all schools
 - Adequate **learning** support for **all** students including those with special needs

2. FORMAL PARENT/STUDENT INPUT ON DECISIONS AFFECTING SCHOOLS

- Parent Advisory Council advising the school district decisions
- Youth representation on school boards
- State law to enforce parents' right to authentic participation in the restructuring process required by NCLB
- **Community involvement in teacher hiring and evaluation that preserves integrity of collective bargaining process and engages parents and students as education partners**

3. SCHOOLS THAT WELCOME STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- Language and racial/ethnic diversity and cultural competence among teaching and administrative staff
- Opportunities for diversity training and assessment of impact in terms of improved communication between student/teacher/parent/administration
- A safe and positive school climate: Fair discipline policies; violence prevention and anti-bullying programs. **Improvements must affect teaching methods in the classroom**
- Meetings convenient to parents: child care, translation, **scheduling, etc.**
- Visible appreciation of the contributions of **individual** students and parents

4. SCHOOLS THAT ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY, ARE OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY

- School board has one or more official meetings in community settings/neighborhoods;
- Agendas posted in advance (at least 48 hours); parents with young children/school-age children given priority in public testimony;
- Curriculum review process includes formal community representation, parents and youth.
- **Increased recruitment of teachers who live in community and reflect diversity of student body**

5. OPEN BUDGET PROCESS

- School district bylaws changed to require community budget workshops held 3-6 months before budget finalized, with information explained in layperson's terms, translated, etc.
- Community informed of ALL budget options prior to decisions, including open discussion of major elements of labor contracts, consulting services, sole source contracts, food supply and other vendors, etc.