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July 2, 2025 Trevor Ladner | 2284933630 tladner@oneinstitute.org



Rainbow Education Coalition Los Angeles Reacts to \$2 Million LGBTQ+ Budget Win in LAUSD

Los Angeles, CA—Last week, Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and the LAUSD School Board committed an additional \$2 million for LGBTQ+ support in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) budget. This win, during Pride Month celebrations, comes after months of hard work and advocacy led by the Rainbow Education Coalition Los Angeles (RECLA), a grassroots campaign to create safe and inclusive environments for all students, staff, and families in LAUSD, in coalition with Students Deserve.

Amidst federal threats and ongoing national attacks by anti-LGBTQ+ groups, the safety of the LGBTQ+ community in schools is at risk. Superintendent Carvalho's additional \$2 million budget will be integral to the success of thousands of students districtwide, being used for protection, awareness and training toward supporting LGBTQ+ students.

"This additional funding is a major victory for our queer and trans students, educators, and families," said Megan Bart, Deputy Director of Campaigns with Educators for Excellence, and a member of RECLA. "We applaud LAUSD's commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion. This is the result of months of organizing, petitions, board meetings, letter campaigns, data gathering and the unwavering commitment of thousands of teachers and education supporters who believe in equitable education for all students. While there is still more work to do to achieve truly safe and affirming schools, our collective efforts have paid off, and our greatest reward is to see students receive the funding and dedication they deserve."

RECLA comprises nonprofit organizations serving LGBTQ+ youth, educators, and families in Los Angeles. Members include Educators for Excellence (E4E), Gender Justice LA (GJLA), GSA Network (GSAN), Los Angeles LGBT Center, Latino Equality Alliance (LEA), One Institute, Rainbow Labs, REACH LA, and the Women's Leadership Project (WLP)

"In times of political turmoil when our most vulnerable are students under attack, it is our duty to step and protect the wellbeing of our student body," said LAUSD District 5 Board Member Karla

Griego. "After hearing from young people, parents, community members and advocates, the approved budget takes a step towards achieving equity by investing into LGBTQ+ student supports. This Summer, my office will work closely with District staff to ensure that dollars are maximized and effectively implemented at the school site level."

"This win belongs to the students, families, and grassroots organizers who boldly demanded that our schools live up to their promise of safety and belonging for all, and I'm proud to stand with them in solidarity and gratitude," said LAUSD District 2 Board Vice President Dr. Rocío Rivas. "In a time when LGBTQ+ youth are being targeted across the country, LAUSD is making it clear: you matter, you belong, and we will fight for you. This \$2 million investment is a critical step toward justice, safety, and affirmation in every classroom. I am committed to ongoing collaboration with our communities, and our work doesn't stop here. Together, we'll ensure these funds translate into real change on campuses, with students leading the way."

The additional funding will go into effect in the 2025-26 school year budget.

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