

Panelist Biographies

Cheryl Peters Hildreth, LAUSD Local District Superintendent, Local District, West

One of six Local District Superintendents in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Cheryl P. Hildreth serves as the Local District Superintendent of the west area of Los Angeles. In this role, she is responsible for improving achievement outcomes for 95,000 students and providing leadership and direction to 150 K-12 principals and a staff of 10 directors, coordinators, and specialists who provide instructional support for all schools in the west service area.

Ms. Hildreth has proven to be committed to instructional excellence at all school levels, as evidenced by her work to provide leadership that fosters expert preparation of students to be college prepared and career ready. For more than 24 years, Ms. Hildreth has impacted the lives of countless students in LAUSD. Notably, she has served as an elementary school teacher, middle and high school assistant principal, middle school principal, Secondary Math Coordinator and Director, Secondary Schools.

A Los Angeles native, Ms. Hildreth was educated in LAUSD public schools. She earned her Bachelor's Degree at Howard University, Washington, D.C. and her M.A., Educational Administration at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Michelle King, Chief Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Michelle King currently serves as the Chief Deputy Superintendent in the LAUSD under the direction of Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines. In this capacity she functions as co-executive and provides educational and operational leadership in developing and implementing District goals and priorities; guiding principles and standards; and accountabilities and educational reform to ensure student achievement to the highest standards of excellence. As the Chief Deputy Superintendent of LAUSD, Ms. King has responsibility for creating policy and making recommendations to the LAUSD Superintendent of Schools and members of the LAUSD Board of Education to help create the conditions for success for more than 700,000 students and staff. Ms. King is a proud product of the Los Angeles Unified School District public education system. She graduated from Pacific Palisades High School, and has dedicated her entire career to serving the students of LAUSD as a teacher, coordinator, assistant principal, principal, Chief Administrator of Secondary Instruction, Assistant Superintendent, Local District Superintendent, Chief of Staff to the Superintendent, and Senior Deputy Superintendent.

As a career educator, Ms. King is committed to ensuring that all students have access to learning and are prepared for the opportunities a college education provides. She has led district-wide instructional reform plans that address graduation requirements and the need to significantly improve student achievement. Ms. King's unwavering dedication to the educational and social development of students has led her to champion projects and programs such as the Restorative Justice initiative which aims to break the 'pipeline to prison' cycle that some students fall victim to.

Ms. King holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a Master's of Science Administration from Pepperdine University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education at the University of Southern California (USC).

Steve Zimmer, Board President and Board District 4 Representative, LAUSD

Steve Zimmer is a 17-year veteran teacher and community activist. Mr. Zimmer joined Teach for America in 1992, and was placed as an ESL teacher at Marshall High School in Silver Lake, where he was an innovator of progressive programs such as the Comprehensive Student Support Center, which provides free medical services for Marshall students' and their families. He also founded the Elysian Valley United Community Services Center (CSC), a community owned and operated agency that provides a continuation school program, an after school program, recreation and enrichment programs for the community.

Steve continued his work in serving marginalized families and youth when he was first elected to the Los Angeles School Board in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. He authored resolutions such as the Dream Act, which committed the District in supporting LAUSD undocumented youth, Anti-bullying resolutions focusing on protecting the rights of LGBTQ youth, and ensuring that all youth receive nutritious meals with his Food Policy resolution.

As part of Steve's passion to serve at risk youth he launched Student Recovery Day District in 2009. Student Recovery Day is a District wide event that focuses on encouraging students that have excessive absences or tardiness, to return to school. This is done via home visits and home phone calls.

In addition, Steve broke down the public agency silos when he established a unique partnership with Youth Policy Institute's FamilySource Center and the LAUSD. This gave an opportunity for LAUSD services to be offered onsite at the FamilySource Center which include Pupil Services and Attendance counseling, Psychiatric Social Worker counseling, Adult ESL classes, and a Continuation High School for homeless youth. This later became a model for the entire District.