Greetings!

For the last two years we have been building tools to help accelerate students who have academic gaps while supporting advanced learners. I am thrilled to share some remarkable leaps in student performance in our Algebra I and Reading programs. We believe they demonstrate the potential of our accelerated learning programs and we look forward to sharing more progress with you at the end of the school year.

In other good news, Leadership Public Schools was awarded a $2.44 million Advance Apportionment of Proposition 1D Funds. In a time of extreme budget constraints we are delighted to be moving ahead with the new LPS-Richmond facility and proud that partnering with West Contra Costa Unified School District on our charter application is helping the district save millions of dollars. The Design Development Phase is complete and the final design is expected to be completed this summer.

As we head into Spring, many of our seniors are beginning to hear from colleges. UC Davis, UC Riverside, Academy of Art, CSU East Bay, San Jose State University, San Francisco State University, Dillard University, UC Irvine, Washington State, Holy Names University, Cal Poly University and more coming in every day!

We have welcomed a new Chief Innovation Officer, LPS-Richmond held a Community Book Day to finish out the wildly successful Richmond Book Drive, and the schools are buzzing with new projects and student achievements.

Best,

Dr. Louise Bay Waters
Superintendent and CEO

p.s. Check out the Richmond Confidential video about LPS-Richmond and the holiday book drive that brought close to 12,000 books to Richmond schools.

1st Semester Results: Accelerated Math & Reading Achievement
**Accelerating Algebra I** - First semester gains maximizing embedded literacy supports at LPS-Hayward and LPS-Richmond. Included immediate response technology for classroom data collection at LPS-Richmond.

**Students at or above grade level in Algebra**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2010*</th>
<th>2011**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPS-Hayward</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>LPS-Richmond</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>92%</td>
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* California State Test Data  
** Leadership Public Schools 1st Semester Assessment (Predictive of CST performance)

**Accelerating Reading** - 9th grade results for students entering LPS reading at a 4th grade level or below in the Read 180 program.

- 58% gained more than 1 grade level in 1 semester  
- 24% gained more than 2 grade levels in 1 semester

More about Leadership Public Schools Research & Development activities.

**LPS-Richmond Community Book Drive Day**

Check out the Press Center and read all about it!  
[Channel 7 News](#), [The Atlantic](#), [KTVU 2 News](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Richmond Confidential](#), and the [Contra Costa Times](#)

The [Richmond Book Drive](#) started off with a conversation between LPS-Richmond English teacher Tyler Hester and two friends who are the band [Pomplamoose](#).

Almost 12,000 book donations later, LPS-Richmond celebrated with a day of over 100 community member volunteers working all day and into the early evening opening packages, sorting books, building bookshelves, and everything
else necessary to make sure the books make it into the hands of Richmond students.

**Eight Richmond schools** will benefit from the book drive and LPS-Richmond students now have hundreds of books to read in their classrooms and a new school library!

![Image of students with book drive banner]

**LPS Event at IDEO: Can Technology Transform Urban Schools?**

Superintendent and CEO Louise Bay Waters and LPS Trustee Heather Hiles welcomed Michael Horn, Co-founder and Executive Director, InnoSight Institute, and Neeru Khosla, Co-founder and Executive Director, CK-12 Foundation to a panel discussion on technology and urban school transformation.

In February, Leadership Public Schools hosted a gathering of thought leaders, education professionals, policy analysts and nonprofit leaders for a panel and working session on ways technology can act as a disruptive force in urban high schools.

"...I have been at this learning journey for over 35 years. For the first time I see a realistic, replicable, path to the transformation of urban high schools. This will not happen because of any one amazing new technology. Rather it will be the result of a system of educational disruptions made
Welcome to our new Chief Innovation Officer!

Leadership Public Schools is thrilled to have Scot T. Refslund, Ph.D. as our new Chief Innovation Officer. A former technology CEO, Scot is experienced in technology innovation and transfer in both the commercial and academic sectors. He will oversee the LPS Office of Innovation and Technology Transfer with a focus on leveraging technology to tackle the significant educational issues we face in public schools today.

New Grants Power Teacher-Driven Projects

Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award: Mike Fauteux, LPS-Hayward math teacher and former Board teacher representative just completed setting up a new iMac lab with his $5,000 award.

"The lab will be a tremendous asset to both students and teachers. Students will learn how to edit video, create web pages, and develop an overall sense of multimedia literacy in a variety of settings from their normal classes to clubs and Week Without Walls programs. LPS-Hayward teachers will use the lab to edit footage of their teaching practices to develop an online, on-demand streaming video library of best practices." - Mike Fauteux, LPS-Hayward Math Teacher

State Farm Environmental Grant: Sarah Johnson, LPS-College Park Biology and Environmental Sciences teacher received a $5,000 grant for the Green Pioneers Community Outreach Project. Ms. Johnson will use the grant-one of only five awarded in California- to continue developing the Castlemont Community Garden and teach students environmentally-focused skills such as urban sustainable agriculture, composting and landfill waste diversion techniques.

"The Green Pioneers gives students a sense of responsibility and they earn a distinct feeling of accomplishment from doing something unique. The program keeps students out of trouble and encourages students to keep their grades up and do their best in all aspects of life." - Kaylen Saephan, 11th grade