

# Primary Promise Works - And it is not the same as the Proposed LNIM

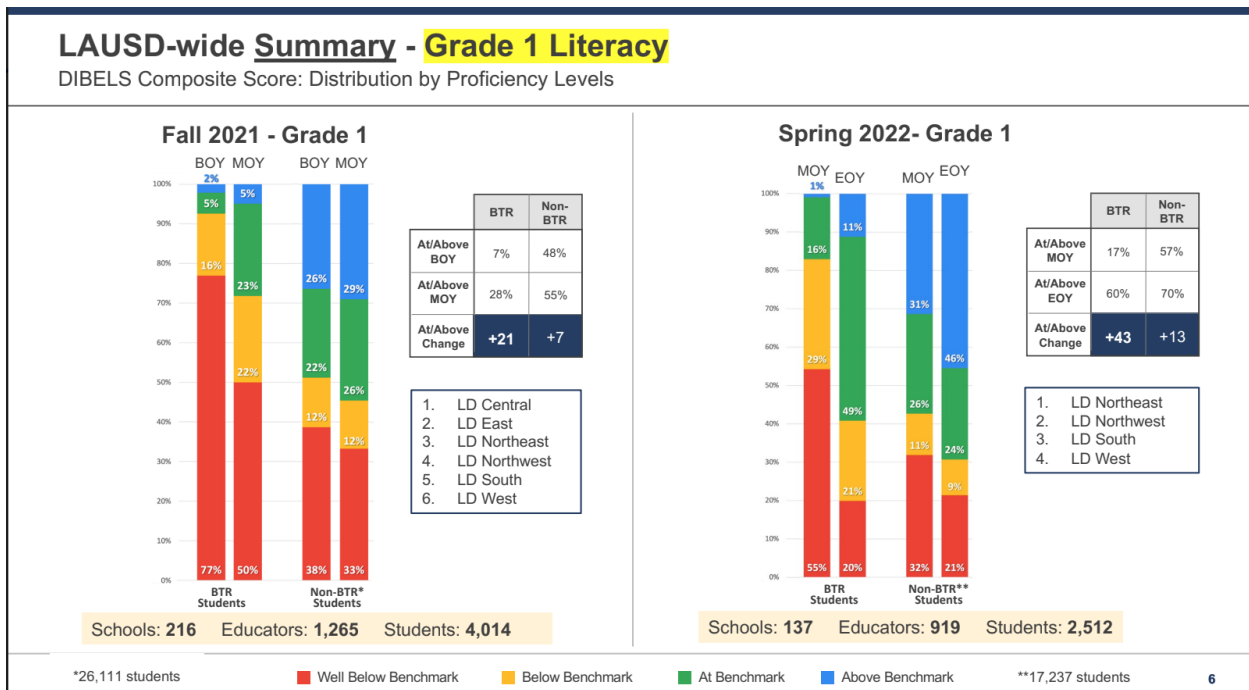
Three Issues:

1. The Data
2. The Money
3. The Transparency

## The Data

Why is the Superintendent saying there isn't enough data to determine value, when we have multiple data subsets available? Why did he say there isn't current data, when not only did he receive a report in July of 2022, but Primary Promise teachers are gathering data weekly? There is no program with more data available than Primary Promise.

Students in Primary Promise are Making Extraordinary Progress.  
Spring 2022 – Grade 1 Reading



Source: LAUSD presentation to Superintendent Carvalho, July 2022

## Fall 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Reading

	Students at Grade Level Beginning of Year	Students at Grade Level Middle of Year	Portion of Students Who Improved
Students in Primary Promise			
All	9%	37%	+28%
English Learners	9	35	+26
Black Students	14	43	+29
Students Not in Primary Promise			
All	3%	39%	+2%
English Learners	24	26	+2
Black Students	28	27	-1%

Source: Presentation at Milken Conference, October 2021

There is no other reading program anywhere in the country with these proven results.

The evaluation of Primary Promise has been more rigorous than any other program in LA Unified. We are moving forward, albeit under a new name, with three acceleration days in the winter of 2023 with ZERO data. At what expense? How is there money for those days, but not to teach students to read?

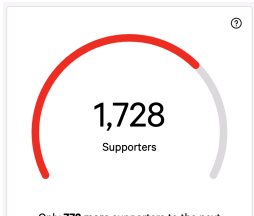
### **Thousands of teachers, Students and Their Families all Support Primary Promise.**

“I am retiring, but am proud of the work we did through covid and after in Primary Promise. The Science of Reading was something we implemented even before it became a buzzword. Jessica Nielsen and Carlen Powell were brilliant in their proposal, which Beutner backed when it was most needed. And all the data I saw with my fellow colleagues in Primary Promise showed, on average, double the growth in our well below basic students, students who were previously left behind. Unfortunately, new leaders always wish to show that they can do better by tearing down and rebuilding, rather than to build on what is working. My hope is that LAUSD will reflect on the past, learn from what we went through, and start building rather than tearing down our best, focusing on measurable growth for every individual, believing in every child and every teacher.”- Michelle S., teacher

“I am a Kindergarten teacher of 29 years. Primary Promise is the first program that has made a difference in our students' growth. We can see it in the classroom and the data shows it also. I have a class mostly comprised of ELL students that enter my classroom with no foundational skills. About 13 of my students have been in the program at some point during this school year. This is the strongest group of students I have ever had at this point in the year. They are blending, decoding, and reading. They know all the letters and sounds. They are confident and love school. The fact that the program is not returning is heartbreaking.” Kim, teacher

“Primary promise has helped (and continues to do so) my child an incredible amount. He still has his struggles like so many others. What can we do to convince them to keep the program? Email the superintendent? Is there anything else people are doing? A petition to sign? This is just so horrible.”  
Dani, parent

Our petition, **Save Primary Promise Early Literacy Program in Los Angeles Unified School District**, currently has over 1700 signatures



### Primary Promise Addresses the Needs of High-Needs Schools and Students.

- Schools participating in Primary Promise do currently include the highest-needs schools. Not only that, we are losing focus on the fact that in a district where over 80% of students are living in poverty, there are very few schools that don't have high need. We can't continue to only help 100 schools out of 1000 and call ourselves a unified school district.
- Each student selected to participate in Primary Promise was far behind their peers in academic achievement.
- Primary Promise is helping Black students and English Learners make remarkable progress.

### The Transparency

Superintendent Carvalho unilaterally ended a successful program with no engagement or input.

- Primary Promise was started with the unanimous public support of LA Unified's Board. There has been no Board discussion or vote about ending the program.
- No communication has been provided to the more than 10,000 families with students in Primary Promise that the program is being cut.
- All Primary Promise Teachers, Aides and Coordinators were notified in March that their jobs are being eliminated.
- At least 300 schools and more than 5,000 students will no longer benefit from their participation in Primary Promise.

### The Money

LA Unified's Investment in Primary Promise Is Well Less Than 1% of Its Budget.

- The cost of Primary Promise is less than that of "Acceleration Days" which have had no reported impact on student achievement. We now see that three additional days are being added into next year's calendar, with zero data to support this expense.
- The cost of Primary Promise is less than the spending on Cultural Arts Passport program which has no apparent connection to any instructional program at schools. Not only that, with the

current refusal from LA County to allow LAUSD students on site, this is a massive waste of funds. There were actual passports sent to students, what is the instructional benefit there? What was the cost?

- LA Unified has a record surplus of \$5+ billion. Spending a modest fraction teaching young students reading and math in a manner which is already working should be a priority.
- The conversations surrounding money have been very misleading. ESSER funds were not initially used, PP began before Covid. If there are funds to hire the Coaches and Interventionists for LNIM, how is that different?

### **Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Model**

Providing Literacy Support at Middle and High Schools Will Not Address the Needs of Elementary School Students.

- These are two different programs. Primary Promise specifically targeted our youngest struggling students. Providing support to middle and elementary school students is incredibly worthwhile, however by stretching the program to secondary school, the Superintendent is looking at a one size fits all model for students from 5 - 17.
- Shifting funding from Elementary Schools to Middle and High Schools will increase the number of Elementary School Students who fall behind.
- Learning is cumulative. Students who build a foundation in Reading and Math while in Elementary School do better in Secondary School.

### **What are we asking for?**

This program can be, and should be, reinstated.