

For Immediate Release

## **MORE-L.A. calls for a clear LAUSD policy on QEIA funding** **Prioritize Student Needs, Not District Greed.**

June 28, 2007 - MORE-L.A., (Movement of Organizations to Reform Education in Los Angeles), a coalition of UTLA and community based organizations which are engaged in education reform in LAUSD, has scheduled a **press conference for Monday, July 2 at Manual Arts HS at 3:20 p.m.** to call for the new LAUSD Board to establish a clear policy towards the proper use and local control of QEIA - Quality Education Investment Act (S.B. 1133) funding for high needs schools.

QEIA, recently negotiated by Governor Schwarzenegger and the California Teachers Association (CTA) provides over \$100 million in 2007-2008 to eighty-eight (88) schools in LAUSD whose student test scores rank in the bottom two deciles. These funds are intended to maximize student achievement through creating the best possible school environment, including reducing class size by hiring more teachers and building additional facilities. MORE LA wants reforms made with QEIA money to be the basis of school sites receiving even more funds from the State of California in the future.

“Schools in low-income communities of color have been neglected for years. This money is only a small part of what our schools and other schools need to improve and become what our students and communities truly deserve” said Sonya Reneé, a district parent and member of ACORN.

“It’s so basic. Parents, teachers, and students know best what our schools need. We just want the District to respect our wishes and let people at school sites determine what QEIA money is spent on,” said Kirti Baranwal, teacher at Gompers Middle School.

The State is giving the allotted QEIA money to schools on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. MORE-L.A. urges LAUSD Board Members to adopt the following as policy for the proper use and local control of QEIA funds:

1. Return the 7% overhead funds to local schools
2. Retain current money at local school sites. QEIA was meant to supplement, not replace existing funds.
3. Allow for local democratic control of QEIA money. LAUSD should collaborate with MORE-L.A. and other interested organizations to develop the training of students, parents, and other local school community stakeholders in the proper use and local control of QEIA funds.

Parents, teachers, students, and community leaders in MORE-L.A. are monitoring LAUSD’s actions to support school improvement with QEIA. We expect that LAUSD will help us meet community and student needs, not continue with policies that show District greed.

MORE-L.A. member organizations: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), Community Asset Development Redefining Education (CADRE); Central American Resource and Education Center (CARECEN); Coalition for Educational Justice (C.E.J.); Community Coalition; Inner City Struggle; One LA-IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation); POWER; and United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA).

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