



# REDLANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 1, 2013

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

To Education Secretary Arne Duncan:

As Superintendent of the Redlands Unified School District, I urge the U.S. Department of Education to approve the Education and Secondary Education Act flexibly Waiver recently submitted by school districts participating in the *California Office to Reform Education (CORE)*.

I am pleased that the districts participating in the CORE Waiver are committed to reaching a much higher goal than simply one measure of accountability. The CORE Waiver includes accountability in multiple areas including college and career readiness for all students with a consistent focus on success for English Learners and the elimination of disparity and disproportionality across all subjects.

The CORE Waiver recognizes that future success for all students is built on many factors and that a collective effort by the entire school, district, and larger community is required. The orientation towards a multi-district collaborative focus on student success is built on the right drivers to achieve results. The districts participating in the CORE Waiver are assuming unprecedented accountability for supporting students' academic, social and emotional development and growth. The focus on these important measures of student success is vital for developing successful citizens who will help communities and the economy thrive in California well into the future.

The CORE Waiver is a plan for improving teaching and learning in nine California districts that collectively serve more than a million students. It is courageous, it will be challenging, but it is the right thing to do. I urge the U.S. Department of Education to favorably review the CORE Waiver application.

Sincerely,

Lori D. Rhodes  
Superintendent of Schools

LDR:hsm