Hi I am Monica Garcia .We are changing the world at LAUSD. Together we have built schools, passed a $7 billion bond, and initiated aggressive instructional reform.
But we also know that our District continues to fail too many of our students. Dropout rates are still far too high and graduation rates are not where they need to be. **There is a crisis in our classrooms, and it is up to us to face it head-on.**

How did we get here? People like to point the finger at budgets. And, it's true, in my lifetime, education spending in the state of California has gone from **7th in the nation to 47th.** This year alone LAUSD faces almost $1 billion dollars in budget cuts.

But budget doesn't tell the whole story. We've got to hold LAUSD accountable for the choices we make in spending the resources that we do have.

we need to reshape the culture of our schools with **high expectations that <u>every</u> child can graduate and go to college.** Then we need to give our students the tools they need to get there, like counseling, tutoring, summer supports, college fairs and—most importantly--a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

if we're going to raise expectations, we need to **give teachers and administrators the flexibility they need to meet them.** Schools need more control over instruction and budget, so they can make their own decisions over how best to spend the funding we do have.

, we need to meet the different needs of our children. **One-size-fits-all doesn't get us there.** We need to reach out to students on the verge of dropping out and get them on track to graduate. And we need to use best practices to help our English Learner students master the language.

Finally, even with these tools, schools will struggle to succeed if they are too large, and many LAUSD schools **are** far too large. We are already moving the District towards smaller schools with more personalized connections between teachers students., and parents.

We can reinvent education in our lifetime. **I know that if we all work together, we can reach 100% graduation.** This is our chance to make LAUSD the leader in urban education reform nationwide. I am running for reelection to the LAUSD Board of Education for District 2. Thank you for your support.