

### ***What People Are Saying:***

We also share the frustration of some Altadenans with the PUSD – the feeling that small can be beautiful, the understanding that some entities just need to be shaken up for shaking’s sake. We’d bet there would be some real advantages for a small system for the town . . . . Just taking a look at the possibilities of a breakup can’t possibly hurt – and could result in a better system.

Opinion, Pasadena Star News

Altadena is being presented with the opportunity to support the excellent work of every kind of public school that quickly closes the academic achievement gap and gets every low-income general education child to and through college – and to do so at the largest scale in our nation’s history.

PUSD Parent

My children went through PUSD (Franklin, Loma Alta, Eliot, Muir). It doesn’t make sense that Altadena can’t have better schools. Parent involvement makes a difference. Closing of Altadena schools is totally unacceptable.

Altadena Resident

I wish . . . the Altadena secession effort the best of luck, as I do sincere Charter School efforts I have seen.

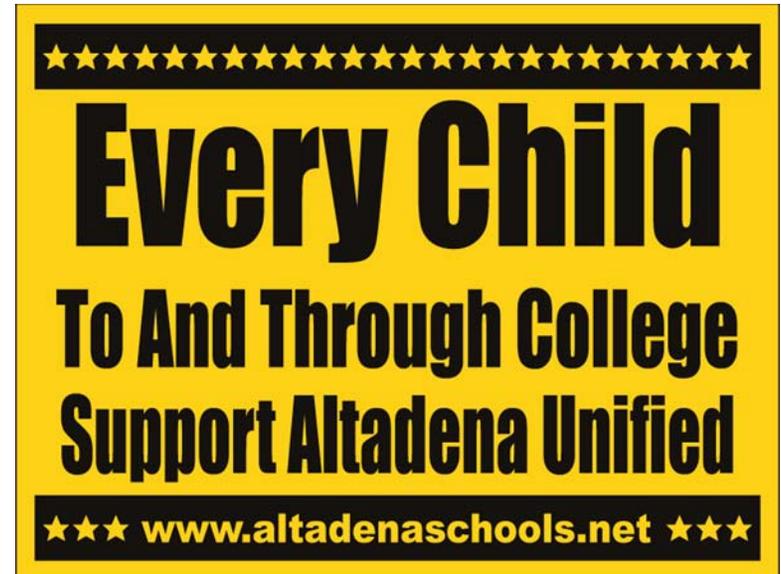
Scott Phelps, member

Pasadena Board of Education

### ***How You Can Help***

Can you help spread **the Altadena Declaration** among your friends, neighbors, place of worship, or local school? Volunteers are needed to spread the Altadena Declaration and finish signature collection in 2011. Volunteer today at **[www.AltadenaSchools.net](http://www.AltadenaSchools.net)**. Help put Altadena one step closer to **Every Child to and Through College by 2020!**

# *The Altadena Declaration*



- Stop Treating Teachers Like “Widgets”
- Create a Much Longer Classroom Day and Year
- Welcome Every Public School that Sends Every Low-Income Child to College

[www.AltadenaSchools.net](http://www.AltadenaSchools.net)

## ***Altadena Schools***

Altadena Schools is an organization of local citizens who have banded together to close the unchanging academic achievement gap between our low-income demographic majority and the middle-class students in our public schools. This gap has become morally, economically, and socially unacceptable for many Altadenans.

Volunteers for Altadena Schools include residents from every corner of Altadena, including public and private school parents, local educators, university professors, and concerned citizens. Our volunteers are representative of Altadena's political, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic diversity.

### ***The Goal***

The goal of Altadena Schools is **Every Child to and Through College by 2020**. In pursuit of the 2020 goal, volunteers are focused on: 1) Achieving overwhelming Altadena support for **the Altadena Declaration**; and 2) Collecting enough signatures on an LA County Office of Education petition to confirm the feasibility of separating Altadena's schools from the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). Altadena's best opportunity for achieving the 2020 goal is a new school district with board members elected to govern the administration of **the Declaration**.

Studies show that **the Altadena Declaration** is the only way to realize parent expectations for their students in an economy that stopped creating opportunities for those who lack a better education long before the Great Recession.

### ***The Possibilities***

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) once served every San Gabriel Valley community from La Canada to El Monte. With **the Altadena Declaration** and its own school district, Altadena can become the first community in the USA to close the academic achievement gap system-wide.

## ***The Altadena Declaration***

**The Declaration** lists the top priorities that any school must implement in order to send **Every Child to and Through College** regardless of family background:

**Priority #1: Stop treating teachers like “widgets”.** No school can send Every Child to and Through College without acknowledging and acting on differences in teacher effectiveness.

**Priority #2: Create a much longer classroom day & year.** Public schools that send over 85% of their low-income students to college stop spending money on activities that fail to raise student achievement. This allows their schools to receive almost 65% more classroom time and their teachers 20% more pay than other schools.

**Priority #3: Welcome every public school that sends every low-income child to college.** The Declaration is a huge departure from school districts that repeatedly say “no” to the few schools organized around priorities #1 and #2.

### ***How PUSD Schools Compare***

Across California, a very small but growing number of public schools with higher percentages of low-income students than Altadena quickly bring their students up to grade level academic proficiency and send virtually every general education child to and through college.

In the meantime, less than 2/3 of Altadena's low-income student majority will graduate from high school. Those who do graduate will perform, on average, at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.

### ***Spending***

Although PUSD spends far more per student than the CA average, it is among CA's academic bottom one-third. Most of PUSD's top demographic comparables spend less, but create much more value than PUSD. All of PUSD's top comparable schools follow **the Altadena Declaration**.