



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – October 29, 2018

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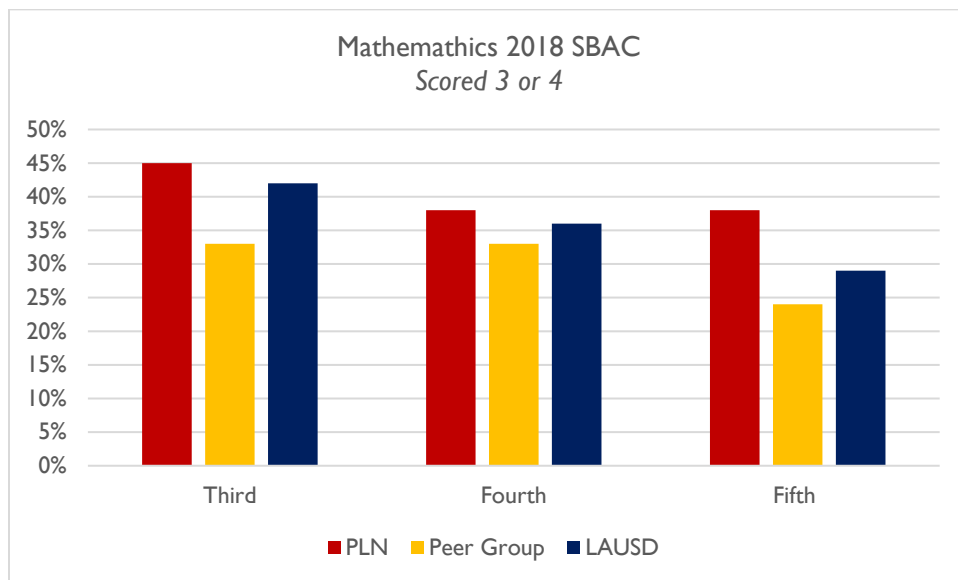
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### **Para Los Niños Students Outrank Peers in California State Test**

Unique School Model Showing Great Gains for At-Risk Students and English Language Learners

**Los Angeles, CA.** – Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School students outperformed their peers at neighboring schools and, in some measures, the entire LAUSD district and the state of California on the 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exam.

Scoring higher than LAUSD in Math across third, fourth, and fifth grades – by three, two and nine points, respectively – Para Los Niños is proving their model to help low-income, at-risk students succeed.



English Language Learners especially excelled at Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School, scoring higher than the entire state of California by at least 10% in Math and English Language Arts across third, fourth, and fourth grade. With more than half of the school population being English Language Learners, these gains are significant.

“These outcomes verify the incredible work of our students and their families as well as our amazing teachers and staff,” said CEO Drew Furedi of the achievement. “We believe that every child – no matter their zip code deserves a great education and a chance to succeed. This success shows that we

can work together to overcome the obstacles that so many of our families face, and have our students thrive,” said Furedi.

In addition to the success at the elementary school, Para Los Niños Charter Middle School is also making gains – showing a 9% growth in English and 5% growth over the past two-years. “So many of our students experience trauma and have to overcome so many obstacles daily,” said Principal Hassan Dornayi, “this growth shows that we can change trajectories for our students, and they can reach their potential. I look forward to continuing to build on these gains to ensure our students are prepared to succeed in college and life.”

Research continues to prove that the risk factors connected to poverty create an opportunity gap for children starting as young as 18 months. 94% of Para Los Niños students qualify for free-lunch and the average annual income for a family of three is under \$25,000. Their schools works to provide excellent education to disrupt the cycle of poverty and fill the gap so students can succeed in school, work, and life. Para Los Niños also empowers families with wraparound support and strong community partnerships to foster nurturing, stable homes.

Launched in the Skid Row area nearly 40 years ago, the organization has continued to adapt and grow to serve L.A.’s most vulnerable populations. Today, Para Los Niños operates nine schools for students from six-weeks old to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, works with nearly 2,000 disconnected youth to finish high school and enroll in college or career training, and partners with families to support the social, emotional, physical and mental health needs of children, youth and adults in their communities.

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*About Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC):*

*SBAC is a Common-Core aligned exam required for all public schools in California to track students’ achievement and progress in Math and ELA. These comprehensive, end-of-year exams track grad-level learning and progress toward college and career readiness.*

*About Para Los Niños:*

*Founded on Skid Row in 1980, Para Los Niños provides education and wraparound support to over 5,000 of L.A.’s neediest children, youth, and families each year. PLN fosters pathways to success by striving for excellence in education, family support, and comprehensive social-emotional, and community based services.*

*Through early-education, TK-8<sup>th</sup> grade education, youth workforce services, and family and community services Para Los Niño’s’ model provides a comprehensive, holistic approach to break the cycle of poverty and help children and youth thrive.*

*Web: [paralosninos.org](http://paralosninos.org)*

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