



TEACHFORAMERICA | California



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

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### Senator Bradford, Assemblymember Bonta and Education Advocates Champion Funding for Diverse School Leaders to Close Equity Gaps

SACRAMENTO – The [DELPI Coalition \(see "Our Partners" section\)](#), a wide-ranging network of education organizations, joined Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) and Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland) in Sacramento on May 1 to advocate for the Diverse Education Leaders Pipeline Initiative (DELPI), a new investment in the credentialing, placement, and retention of 300 diverse and culturally responsive TK-12 school administrators.

Senator Bradford and Assemblymember Bonta introduced a budget proposal to fund the DELPI and members of the coalition visited lawmakers' offices to share personal experiences about why representation on campuses is important and how the DELPI will strengthen California's schools.

"We know the power of representation and how important it is for young people to see folks that look like them in leadership positions," said Senator Bradford. "The Diverse Education Leaders Pipeline Initiative will help close the gap for administrators, open up pathways of advancement for teachers and strengthen our schools' ability to deliver for the next generation of leaders."

"Learning loss documented during the pandemic makes it even more urgent for California to prioritize equitable outcomes for all students. Representation matters and we are not doing enough to diversify

the teacher to administrator pipeline,” said Assemblymember Bonta. “This investment will improve school quality and academic achievement outcomes for all students with a focus on students of color.”

This initiative would help close student equity gaps and increase administrator diversity across California’s schools. In California, school leaders of color are grossly underrepresented. While 60% of students in K-12 public schools are Black or Latinx, only 32% of public schools have Black or Latinx administrators.

“There is simply too much at stake for California’s future generations of leaders to pass this opportunity up to invest in our campuses,” said Lashante Scott, an Assistant Principal born and raised in the Bay Area and participant at the DELPI advocacy day. “It is urgent that we act now and show our support for this proposal, which presents a chance for more leaders of color to run our schools and serve our students.”

In addition to supporting 300 aspiring TK-12 school administrators, the DELPI will aim to strengthen California’s educator workforce, increase retention for educators of color by bolstering workplace culture in schools and better inform future policy decisions by tracking recruitment and retention data.

Nearly 300 educators, parents and advocates from across the state [have joined](#) Senator Bradford, Assemblymember Bonta and the DELPI coalition in support of this critical investment.

“Our schools are the foundation of our society and the key to providing our students with the best possible education,” Scott said. “It is crucial that we invest in them, and this proposal offers a unique opportunity to empower leaders of color and serve the diverse communities of California. Let us unite and invest in our schools, creating a brighter future for the next generation of California's leaders.”

Read more about the DELPI [here](#).

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The Charting the Course to Equity Coalition, established and facilitated by the Diversity Leadership Institute, is a diverse and powerful network of local and national organizations with a California presence that believe school leaders’ racial diversity and culturally responsive leadership skills are critical levers in creating successful schools.