

**INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

TO: High School Principals

Date: May 31, 2000

FROM: Linda Tubach and Patty Litwin, social studies teachers
and Ramon Cortines, Superintendent

SUBJECT: *COLLECTIVE BARGAINING EDUCATION PROJECT*, Rm. A309

The Collective Bargaining Education Project engages our high school social studies students and their teachers in an exceptional learning experience about the world of work--one that brings about high levels of student performance and connects students to professionals in the labor and business communities who serve as role models and mentors. Now beginning its third year, the program has won LAUSD School Board acclaim and national attention, and it will be available to high schools next year, upon request to our office. Within weeks, our calendar has been fully scheduled every semester, so we urge you to discuss this opportunity with your social studies teachers as soon as possible!

Our curriculum, "Workplace Issues and Collective Bargaining in the Classroom", is comprised of week-long demonstration lessons conducted by two experienced social studies teachers, Linda Tubach and Patty Litwin. Using a role play or case study method in which students apply complex ideas and information, these lessons do not impose a perspective on students, but engage them in problem-solving on the choices possible for workplace relations in a democratic society. The students encounter the world of work, labor-management relations, conflict, and public policy not as inevitabilities, but as a range of possibilities with outcomes that depend on people like themselves--themes embedded in effective social studies instruction.

The main goals of this program are to raise student understanding of the meaning of work in our society, both historically and today, and to directly assist teachers of Economics and U.S. Government, U.S. History, World History, and ECP. The collective bargaining role play focuses on a contemporary workplace, and includes labor relations professionals who coach student teams in a 3 hour contract negotiations session. Other lessons include labor and management's rights and responsibilities in the workplace today, and the historical dilemmas faced by labor and management as the collective bargaining process has developed and become part of our nation's public policy. The project's curriculum is literacy-based, approved by the District, and aligned with the District's learning standards as well as the California History-Social Science Framework.

In two years, this program has directly served more than 80 teachers and their students in 39 LAUSD high schools. Almost 5,000 students have directly participated in a collective bargaining simulation, and over 150 professional negotiators from both management and labor, as well as the government (Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service) and the academic community (UCLA, LA Trade Tech), have volunteered to coach the students. For further information or to schedule 3 - 5 days of demonstration lessons, please refer your social studies teachers to our office as soon as possible. (213-386-3144)