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STATEMENT ON *THE NATION'S REPORT CARD:*
2013 Mathematics and Reading—Trial Urban District Assessment

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I am thrilled to see that the 2013 NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) report has shown that my home city of Los Angeles has made such impressive gains in the crucial subjects of mathematics and reading at both grades 4 and 8, in comparison with its previous TUDA scores in 2003 for mathematics and 2002 for reading, when Los Angeles began its involvement in TUDA.

Statistically significant increases of 4 and 5 points from 2011 to 2013 were seen at all subject and grade combinations, except for grade 8 math. The long-term trend in improved scores for Los Angeles is especially impressive. For grade 8 reading, for example, the average score increased by 15 points over the past decade. In grade 8 math, the score increase from 2003 to 2013 was an impressive 19 points. In addition, the 2013 report shows academic improvements from 2011 in mathematics at grade 4 for white, black, and Hispanic students and for students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches. Lunch-eligible students in Los Angeles had higher scores in reading also at grades 4 and 8.

While we acknowledge and celebrate these improvements in student achievement, we must also be cognizant of the work we still have to do. Although we are making significant progress, it is worth noting that in this 2013 NAEP report the average TUDA scores for both subjects and grades for Los Angeles still fell below the large-city and national averages.

As a fourth-grade teacher in Los Angeles, I know the importance and the power of high expectations for all students. I have no doubt that the education community in Los Angeles wants the best for our students, both now and in the future. The improvements our students have made across the board are impressive, but let's take this positive news and keep moving forward to even greater improvements in 2015.