

**Mendez Campaign
SUSD Board of Trustees Area 1
General Election 2020
Candidate Statement**

CECILIA MENDEZ

Ballot Designation: Stockton Unified School District Board Member

Our children's education and safety are my top priorities. As we know, public schools are often the only path to future success in our community. Therefore, our students deserve to have the support and resources they need to be College and Career-ready upon graduation. As a Trustee, I am working to assure that our students are receiving instruction that is equitable and at grade level, from qualified teachers. Our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is aligned to achieve these goals.

Mental health services are equally important as many of our students need support beyond the classroom. Our youth come to school with an array of experiences and from different backgrounds. Schools must be a safe place for them to learn without the fear of gangs, drugs, bullying, and violence. I believe in equality, accountability, after-school education, career technical education training, better technology in the classroom and closing the achievement gap. I work tirelessly to ensure that our school district continues to improve student achievement and that every dollar benefits our student's education.

During my first term I have served as the board clerk. As an officer of the board I have worked with my colleagues to keep our district financially solvent. In fact, the 2020-21 school year is the first year since my tenure that we will open with a balanced budget. I also serve as the Chair of the Stockton Unified 1852 Foundation where we have raised thousands of dollars to provide our students financial support to participate in academic competitions. In addition, I serve as a delegate for the California School Boards Association (CSBA). CSBA is focused on improving board governance and defining education policy to ensure a high-quality education for every student. As an elected delegate, I work diligently to impact CSBA's direction to be inclusive of the needs of our region. CSBA has been instrumental in guiding the direction of the Governor and State Superintendent through the COVID-19 pandemic to assure the safety of our students.

Our school district is in transition and focusing on progress amid great change and uncertainty. As your Trustee, our children's education and safety are my top priorities. I'm seeking re-election. I will be grateful to continue to serve you.