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For Immediate Release

On March 3rd, 2011 the Pasadena Unified School District, American Institutes for Research (AIR), and Pivot Learning Partners together agreed to place on hold the district's participation in the Strategic School Funding for Results (SSFR) project pursuant to the announcement by Superintendent Edwin Diaz that he will resign his post effective August 2nd. With school board elections and a new Superintendent in its near future, all parties agreed that this was the best way to provide the board and new superintendent more latitude in proceeding with this major reform initiative.

"In the short term we will continue to develop and implement many of the practices and strategies we have developed with the support of the SSFR project," affirms Mr. Diaz. "However, because we cannot guarantee the direction of a new administration, we are unable to assure our partners and funders that we could stay on the project's ambitious timeline," he added.

SSFR project leaders agree that this will give PUSD greater flexibility to customize the scope and pace of implementation to align district reform initiatives with the pending leadership transition.

In a joint statement released by the SSFR leadership (SSFR Project Director Steve Jubb and Co Principal investigators Jim Brown from Pivot Learning Partners and Jay Chambers from the American Institutes of Research), "Pasadena has made great progress despite having to do so during a time of declining California education funding, and we believe it is important to give Pasadena's new superintendent and the Board of Education the flexibility necessary to proceed with the necessary major reforms."

The SSFR project will continue with its two other participating districts, the Los Angeles Unified Schools District and the Twin Rivers Unified School District northeast of Sacramento. The SSFR leadership has promised to continue to share their progress with PUSD, and Mr. Diaz has pledged to keep SSFR updated on his district's accomplishments and build on the good work that has been completed to date.