

Famed East LA Calculus teacher Jaime Escalante in his classroom

**“It’s a real tragedy that our public schools aren’t teaching English to young immigrant children.”**

*Jaime Escalante, the renowned East LA Calculus teacher portrayed in the film Stand and Deliver, serves as Honorary Chairman of Proposition 227--the “English for the Children” campaign.*

**YES on 227** English for the Children

**Proposition 227**

**English for the Children**

315 West 9th Street, #920  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Phone: 213/627-0005**

**Fax: 213/627-0050**

E-Mail: [info@OneNation.org](mailto:info@OneNation.org)

Web: [www.OneNation.org](http://www.OneNation.org)

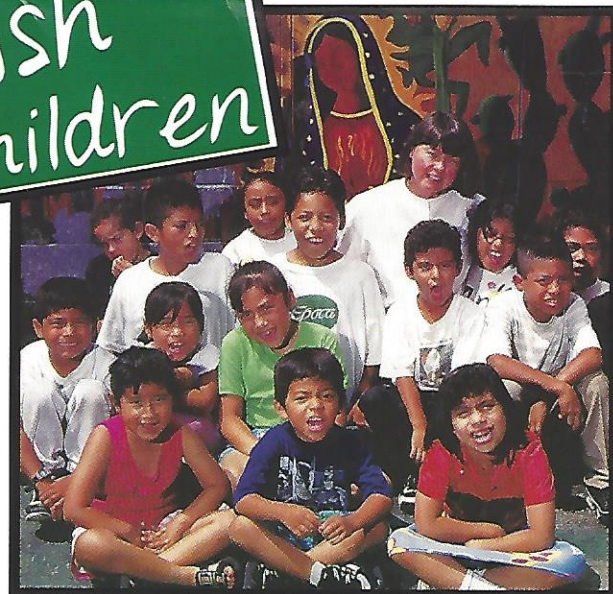
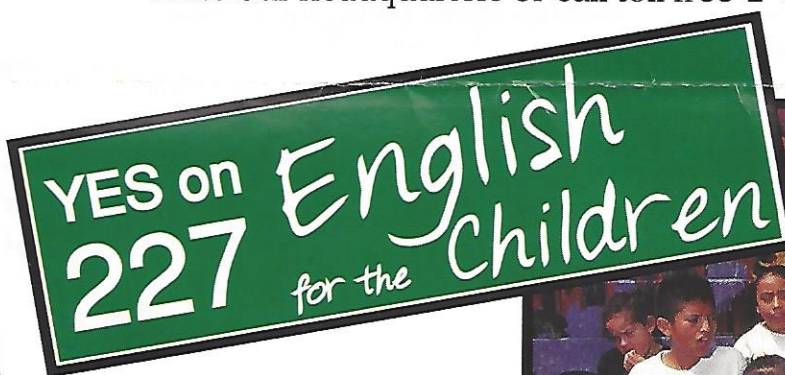
*Paid for by the*

*English for the Children Committee ID#970631*

## We Need Your Help to End Bilingual Education in California by June 1998

Despite its clear failure, “bilingual education” has been in place for twenty-five years, provides salaries and perks for many thousands of program administrators, and has the long-time support of powerful Sacramento politicians. Nearly 800,000 ordinary citizens in California signed petitions to put our initiative before the voters, but we can’t win this election without your help as well. Please. . .

- Put up yard signs and bumper stickers to show your support
- Spread the word to your friends and neighbors
- Make financial contributions to our campaign
- Write our headquarters or call toll free **1-888-778-6439**



Alice Callaghan and the children of the Latino Boycott.

**“I want my children to learn English so they won’t have the problems which I’ve had”**

*Lenin Lopez, Los Angeles garment worker, explaining his participation in the historic Latino Boycott against bilingual education.*



**B**egun with the best of intentions twenty or thirty years ago, “bilingual education” has failed in actual practice. Unfortunately, the politicians and administrators involved with “bilingual education” have completely refused to admit this failure. Our “English for the Children” initiative will end this failed experiment, and safeguard California’s future by ensuring that all children learn to read English, write English, and speak English in California public schools. With your help, it is possible.

## Common Sense About Learning English

- Learning a new language such as English is easier the younger the age of the child.
- Learning a language is much easier if the child is immersed in that language.
- Immigrant children *already* know their native language; they need the public schools to teach them English.
- Children who leave school without knowing how to read English, write English, and speak English are injured for life economically and socially.

## What “English for the Children” Will Do

- Require children to be taught English as soon as they start school.
- Place non-English speaking students in “Sheltered English Immersion” classes to give them extra assistance in rapidly learning English.
- Allow parents to request a special waiver for children who would benefit from another educational method.
- Allocate \$50 million for ten years to local school districts to establish adult English literacy programs for immigrants and non-immigrants alike.

## What “English for the Children” Won’t Do

It will:

- **NOT** throw children who can’t speak English into regular classes where they would have to “sink or swim.”
- **NOT** cut special funding for children learning English.
- **NOT** prevent use of foreign languages in school.
- **NOT** violate any existing federal laws or court decisions.

**“Supporting the “English for the Children” campaign is the only “politically-incorrect” thing I’ve ever done in my life.”**

*Alice Callaghan, Director of Las Familias del Pueblo and long-time immigrant rights activist.*



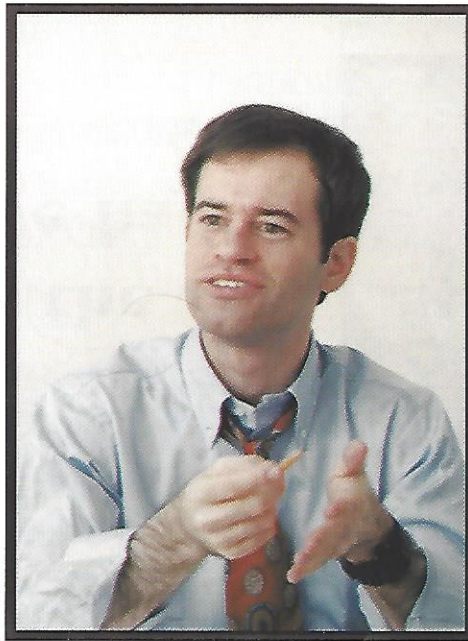






## Q: Is this an "anti-immigrant" or "anti-Latino" initiative?

Absolutely not. Silicon Valley Software Entrepreneur Ron Unz, Chairman of the initiative campaign, has a long pro-immigrant track record, and was a leading opponent of Proposition 187 and anti-immigrant legislation in Congress. Co-Chair Gloria Matta Tuchman is a Mexican-American school teacher from Santa Ana, who teaches English to limited-English children. Campaign Advisor Alice



**"Some issues are liberal vs. conservative. Some issues are Democrat vs. Republican. This issue is basic common sense."**

*Ron Unz, Chairman of the "English for the Children" initiative campaign.*

Callaghan, who assisted the Latino Boycott against "bilingual education" which inspired the campaign, is a committed immigrant rights activist. The initiative also provides extra funding to help adults, both immigrant and native-born alike, learn to read and write English. The campaign is bi-partisan, supported by Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, immigrants and the native-born.

## Q: Won't the State Legislature in Sacramento fix the problem without an initiative?

No. California politicians have been completely deadlocked on this issue. The legislation requiring "bilingual education" expired ten years ago, but political pressure and statutory interpretations have kept the system alive and growing during this period, with annual spending exceeding \$300 million per year. Dozens of bills marginally changing the system have been proposed over these years, but none have become law.

## Q: Shouldn't parents be given a choice?

Absolutely. Our initiative allows them a choice. In a state as large as California, there may be some "bilingual education" programs which actually work well. Under our initiative, parents can place or keep their children in a "bilingual education" program if they can provide some indication that such a program will actually help their child learn English and benefit their child's overall education.

## Q: Will this initiative be tied up in court like others?

No. There is no federal or constitutional basis for "bilingual education." The legal foundation for "bilingual education" is the unanimous 1974 Supreme Court decision *Lau v. Nichols*, which required schools to provide some extra assistance to children who do not speak English. However, *Lau* never specified the type of assistance, and certainly never mandated "bilingual education." In 1978, the 9th Circuit Appellate Court, covering California, clarified *Lau* through the *Guadalupe v. Tempe* decision, ruling in the clearest possible terms that "bilingual education" was not required by federal law. The only basis for "bilingual education" in California is a mixture of state law and state administrative decisions, both of which would be superseded by our initiative. Our initiative is in absolute accord with all federal court rulings; when it passes, it will be implemented at the beginning of the following school year.