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**Most Schools Meet New Accountability Report Card Deadline**  
***Ten districts receive letters warning of deficiencies***

SAN FRANCISCO — A just-released report finds that the majority of California schools met a new February 1 deadline for publishing their School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) and continue to make gains in accountability reporting in the wake of four years of private investigation and enforcement by Public Advocates Inc., a nonprofit law firm and advocacy group.

Since the organization's efforts began, compliance rates have jumped from 50% the first year to nearly 9 in 10 schools now publishing their SARCs on time. In particular, this year's report points to a significant jump in compliance with the requirement to translate SARCs into multiple languages.

This is the fifth annual investigation on SARC compliance led by Public Advocates. Attorneys and paralegals from the San Francisco office of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP conducted the bulk of this year's investigation on a pro bono basis, reviewing more than 650 schools in 26 districts.

"We're encouraged to see school officials take this responsibility seriously, even with the earlier deadline," said Guillermo Mayer, Staff Attorney with Public Advocates. Stephen Walters, a partner at Allen Matkins, agreed. "The increase in translations is especially heartening given California's diverse population."

While the overall results of the audit were positive, some schools continue to disregard their duty to disclose key data on school conditions, and many non-

English-speaking parents continue to lack timely access to SARC's in their primary language. As a result, Public Advocates is warning ten school districts of possible legal action if they fail to comply fully with their SARC obligations within thirty days:

1. Fremont Unified School District (Alameda County)
2. ABC Unified School District (Los Angeles)
3. Burbank Unified School District (Los Angeles County)
4. Natomas Unified School District (Sacramento County)
5. River Delta Unified School District (Sacramento County)
6. Twin Rivers Unified School District (Sacramento County)
7. South Bay Union School District (San Diego County)
8. Encinitas Union School District (San Diego County)
9. Escondido Union School District (San Diego County)
10. Carlsbad Unified School District (San Diego County)

The SARC is parents' and the public's only official source of comprehensive information about academic performance and key conditions at individual school sites. The SARC originated with Proposition 98, passed by California voters in 1988, and has been strengthened several times by the Legislature. The school report cards must be updated fully each year and posted online, and also translated by districts where more than 15 percent of a school's student population speaks a primary language other than English.

"Between these results and the move toward a comprehensive pre-K to workforce data system for California, there is reason to be optimistic," said Corina Vasare from the grassroots group California ACORN. "For now, parents need to know this information is out there. For any future system, parents need to be involved during the design process to make sure it meets their needs."

A summary of the report's findings follows. For a copy of the full report, visit [www.publicadvocates.org/ourwork/education/index.html#sarc](http://www.publicadvocates.org/ourwork/education/index.html#sarc).

*Public Advocates Inc. is a non-profit law firm and advocacy organization that challenges the systemic causes of poverty and racial discrimination by strengthening community voices in public policy and achieving tangible legal victories advancing education, housing and transit equity. For more information, see [www.publicadvocates.org](http://www.publicadvocates.org).*

2009 SARC Investigation Summary		
<b>TOTALS</b>		
School districts investigated	26	
Schools investigated	652	
Schools with translation requirement	476	73%
	<b># of schools</b>	<b>% of schools in</b>
	<b>in</b>	<b>compliance</b>
	<b>compliance</b>	
<b>SARC REQUIREMENTS</b>		
SARC publication	568	87%
Translation*	384	81%
Needed facility repair **	545	96%
Textbooks & instructional materials **	533	94%
Teacher misassignments **	519	91%
Teacher vacancies **	518	91%
School-level per pupil expenditures **	493	87%
School-level average teacher salaries **	490	86%

\* Percentage based on the 476 schools meeting the 15% translation threshold

\*\* Percentage based on the total number of schools with current SARCs (568), not the total number of schools inspected (652).