

# Strengthening Regional Education and Economic Opportunities



## About us

Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) is a multi-issue community-based organization that advocates for Latinas/os in Los Angeles County. We harness power building and advocacy to increase educational attainment, foster civic engagement, and achieve economic prosperity to advance social justice for Latinas & Latinos. ABC's focus areas include Education, Health, Economic Prosperity and Civic Engagement.

## San Fernando Valley and Southeast LA Education Committees

ABC envisions Regional Education Committees as coalitions of diverse organizations collaborating to support students and families in Los Angeles. These committees aim to identify gaps in economic mobility, coordinate resources, and engage the community. Initiated in Southeast Los Angeles in 2022 and launched in the San Fernando Valley in 2024, both committees include educators, nonprofit leaders, and advocates, with plans to expand to 12 members each. The goal is to enhance educational opportunities and connections to economic mobility.

## SELA Successes:

---



### Community Schools

ABC has increased awareness of the community school model among stakeholders in Southeast Los Angeles (SELA), including community members, partner organizations, and elected officials. ABC prepared a [report](#) highlighting community needs and stakeholder recommendations, helping inform local decision-makers and build support for increased resources and funding in Board District 5.



### Regional Resource Hub

In February 2025, ABC launched the SELA Cares Resource Center with local organizations to support residents facing deportation concerns, loss of humanitarian protections, LGBTQ+ issues, and barriers to essential benefits. The center brings together nine community organizations providing services in immigrant rights, LGBTQ+ equity, mental health, healthcare, housing, digital literacy, and legal defense, while promoting civic engagement and community empowerment.



### Local Workforce Support

Through East Los Angeles College's South Gate satellite campus, ABC has worked to amplify resident voices and enhance services for undocumented students and community members, particularly in workforce training. We also advocated for a school district policy to expand "Grow Your Own" programs, strengthening certificated and classified workforce pathways.



### EL/MLL Student Needs

ABC has elevated awareness of the needs of English Learner and Multilingual Learner (EL/MLL) students, promoting culturally responsive practices and addressing the social-emotional needs of newcomers. Our recent [report](#) on multilingual learners in SELA highlights key data, challenges, and opportunities to enhance student success and improve college and career pathways.



### Civic Participation

ABC's SELA Votes, a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) initiative, has mobilized Latina/o high-opportunity voters across eight Southeast Los Angeles cities and two unincorporated Los Angeles County communities. Since 2022, the initiative has reached more than 184,000 voters through door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, and text messaging.



### Green Schools

In collaboration with UC Irvine, ABC is conducting an air quality monitoring project in SELA using TARTA machines placed in community homes. These devices track toxic metals in real-time and are more cost-effective than alternatives. The [data](#) collected will help shape policies to enhance public health in SELA.



### Access to Higher Education

ABC has advanced access to higher education through SELA Goes to College, a Greater Los Angeles coalition focused on strengthening college pathways and reducing barriers for students. The initiative recently connected more than 200 students and parents with resources on college readiness, admissions, financial aid, and campus life, with a focus on first-generation college students. Key partners include Education Trust-West, East Los Angeles College (ELAC) South Gate, SoCal CAN, SELA Collaborative, and LACCD.



### Local City Officials Engagement

ABC has fostered strong relationships with elected officials in Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, and South Gate to advance local legislation addressing key issues, including expanding access and addressing digital equity disparities across the region. Through community leadership training, we have worked alongside residents to engage in city council meetings and elevate lived-experience testimony in local decision-making.

## Objective

Build advocacy capacity and collective power among local CBOs and aligned stakeholders to advance educational success and economic mobility.



### Resource Sharing

- Creation of a new network for community organizations to exchange materials, programs, policies, initiatives, and expertise.



### Advocacy

- Champion policies & initiatives that promote high quality education for students and access to high opportunity careers
- Connect economic mobility partners and education advocates
- Public comments, letters of support sign-ons
- Meeting participation with local elected leaders



### Community Engagement

- Strengthening partnerships with community, educators, & local stakeholders
- Offer educational workshops for parents & students to support diverse learning needs



### Student Support Services

- Identify and connect students with academic, social, and emotional resources that foster their overall well-being and success



### Developing Workforce Pipeline Partnerships

- Establishing a biotech corridor in the San Fernando Valley will hold significant potential for economic growth, attract high-paying jobs and increase investment in local infrastructure and education.
- Expand bioscience workforce pathways at LA Mission College and local high schools.

We welcome organizations and individuals who are passionate about education, student success, and economic prosperity to join our efforts. Whether through resource sharing, advocacy, or direct student services, your support will make a meaningful impact.

**To join one of our local regional education committees or to learn more, please contact Luis Lopez at [luislopez@afabc.org](mailto:luislopez@afabc.org).**



[afabc.org](http://afabc.org)



[@afabc\\_la](https://www.instagram.com/afabc_la)



**ABC**

Alliance for a Better Community