October 17th, 2013

Assembly Member Adam C. Gray, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State Capitol, Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Adam Gray, Chair:

I respectfully request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee hold an oversight hearing to review the $1-billion iPad project that was rolled out by L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD) last month. While I fully support technology initiatives that give our students new learning opportunities and help make materials relevant, I don’t believe the right steps have been taken to ensure proper execution and smooth operation of this project.

Proper oversight is essential, as these tablets are funded by voter-approved bond money and cost just under $700 apiece. Several significant problems have arisen already including students bypassing security measures to play games, to access restricted websites, or to sell the tablet; inconsistencies in instructors being able to connect to the internet to utilize the devices; and lack of a clear policy when liability issues arise due to lost, stolen, or broken tablets. Additionally, there have been discussions on the legality of using 25-year construction bond money to purchase the iPads (which have a lifespan of only 3-5 years).

The LAUSD is the second largest district in the nation, with more than 1,000 campuses. These problems have arisen during the beginning phase that only includes 47 schools, and it is essential that complications are corrected before more devices are distributed.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916)-319-2055.

Sincerely,

Curt Hagman
Assemblyman, District 55

Cc: Senator Ricardo Lara, Vice Chair
Cc: Joint Legislative Audit Committee