

As a former Berkeley School Board Director, I enthusiastically endorse Leah Wilson.

Leah Wilson sees education as the great equalizer. She cares deeply about helping all students excel, and is determined to address the wide achievement gap within Berkeley Schools. In addition to her passion to address the achievement gap, she has the analytical background needed to tackle this growing problem. Unfortunately, Berkeley politics have kept us from fully utilizing information which could help us better education our young people. Wilson will seek to find out what is and isn't working in our community.

In a resource tight environment we need to ensure that Berkeley schools are investing in the most effective programs, which might not necessarily be the most popular ones. Wilson understands this distinction. She is intent on creating a system that will allow us to figure out and invest in what works.

I also endorse Wilson because of her experience representing at-risk youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. As a former foster youth myself, I understand how unlikely it is for foster youth to graduate from high school and go on to college. Wilson's background representing children in foster care allows her to better understand the particular hardships faced by children in out of home care. I cannot explain how critical it is to have our educational policy makers aware of the impact policies could have on the some of the most underprivileged youth in the district. She could help create and improve programs to help address the needs of particularly vulnerable youth.

I attended Berkeley schools from pre-school through high school and in the 2004-2005 academic term, I was the Student Representative on the Board of Education. I was a foster child and a student with a learning disability. While in Berkeley schools I faced upsetting bureaucratic obstacles, but I also found life long mentors. I believe Leah Wilson will push forward needed changes in Berkeley schools while keeping the Berkeley spirit. I highly endorse her for the position of Berkeley School Board Director.

Sincerely,
Lily Eagle Dorman Colby



Lily Eagle Dorman Colby served as the Student Director on the Berkeley Board of Education in the 2004-2005 academic year. Although Lily spent her teenage years in foster care and struggled with a learning disability, she excelled at Berkeley High School. In October 2009 she was chosen as one of the top ten college women by Glamour Magazine, and in May she graduated with a BA in Economics from Yale University.