Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Commemorative 2018
Announcement to 5th through 12th Grade Students
Essay, Poetry and Poster Contest
Contest Theme and Book: "The Distance Between Us" by Reyna Grande

We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure. *- Cesar Chavez*

In her book "The Distance Between Us" author Reyna Grande writes about enduring a difficult life in Mexico and in the United States**.** She writes credibly in the voice of her younger self about growing up in Iguala de la Independencia in southern Mexico. The book starts as her mother is leaving for the United States to join her husband, who left two years before. Their parents have left with the dream of earning enough money to build a house back in Iguala; meanwhile the children have their own dream of being reunited with their parents and once more being a family. Eventually, their father takes them to the U.S. The author describes a life that, though different, is not easy on either side of the border. They must live in fear of deportation, learn a new language, cower under their father's abusive treatment, make do, and always on poverty.

CONTEST RULES
1. The dates of the contest are from March 12– April 13, 2018

2. BUSD students in grades 5 to 12 can participate in the contest.

3. Students enter the contest by:
   ● reading the book:
     ○ Elementary and Middle: The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition (ages 10 to 14)
     ○ High School: "The Distance Between Us" available in English and Spanish

   ● Writing a one-page essay, poem in English or Spanish (whichever you know best). Please type *or* write your submission on a white sheet of paper (letter 8 1⁄2 x 11 in) **or** by making a Poster, no larger than 8.5 X 17

4. Your essay/poetry/Poster submission must include the following information:
   Your full name * Age * Grade level * School name

5. **Submit your essay in one of the following ways:**
    ● To your school Principal **or** Email to ofee@berkeley.net **or** mail via US Postal Service to: Ann Callegari, Supervisor , Office of Family Engagement and Equity - 2020 Bonar St. Berkeley, CA 94702

6. **The deadline to submit essays will be 4 p.m. April 13, 2018.**

7. A panel is comprised of BUSD, Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta Commemoration Committee, the City of Berkeley and community representatives will review the submissions and choose the top five from each category (essay, poetry and poster).

8. BUSD will announce the winners on April 18, 2018

9. Winners (accompanied by a parent/guardian) will be honored at a small ceremony with essays, poems and exhibit on **Wednesday, April 25, 2018,** 4-5:30 pm in the school district boardroom. (TENTATIVE)

Prizes (gift cards) and certificates for the top entries in each category

ESSAY/POEM/POSTER CONTEST PROMPTS

Grades 5-8   "The Distance Between Us" Young Readers Edition

Suggested Topics for essays, poems and posters:

● How did reading "The Distance Between Us" help you understand the immigrant experience as told by a young person? What questions and/or feelings did the book open up for you?
● Reyna Grande had a dream of her family being together. What were some of the obstacles that Reyna experienced that stand out for you, and why?
● Over 800,000 dreamers are undocumented, and come to the United States to be with their parents. How has this memoir helped you understand and/or be an advocate for dreamers?

Grades 9-12   "The Distance Between Us"
Suggested Topics for essays, poems and posters:

● This is a memoir about a family, separated because parents were looking for a better life for themselves and for their children. Would you recommend this book to someone, why?
● How does this book help convey the importance of addressing immigration?
● Describe a time in which you felt abandoned or separated from a loved one. How did you resolve your feelings?
● Eventually Reyna is successful. To whom does she owe her success? What helped Reyna to become a successful writer?