

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
November 24, 2003

Contact: Tanya Aldaz
Phone: (619) 518-3958

M&M PROGRAM PROVEN TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

Report shows that 93% of M&M schools meet or exceed their Academic Performance Index (API) target

San Diego, CA... Assemblymember Juan Vargas (D-San Diego) announces the success of the Motivation and Maintenance Program (M&M), a program originally intended to reduce dropouts has also proven to make a dramatic difference in academic achievement.

“This year’s DataQuest Report proves that the M&M strategies used has opened up the education system to exercise options that were not available before,” said Vargas. “The M&M program is a win-win because it is not only keeping our future graduates in school but they are also improving their academic performance.”

Pupil M&M strategies were enacted by the legislature in 1986, with the passage of SB 65. These proven strategies have helped hundreds of schools successfully address the needs of their most challenged students. M&M schools employ an outreach consultant who works with students, teachers and parents to remove barriers to learning, implement school wide strategies and create a coordinated service environment in which students can succeed. The schools were selected for the program due to challenges such as under-credentialed teachers and at-risk students in low income and low performing schools.

“There is an urgent need to help more schools implement these successful strategies” stated Vargas. “Our students must succeed and I will continue to work on the expansion of this program across the state.”

This year, Vargas’ AB 841 was signed into law, making technical support for M&M strategies available to *all* under performing schools in California through the California Dropout Prevention Network. Vargas’ bill also requires new Outreach Consultants to possess a Dropout Prevention Specialist Certificate from a California State University, or enroll in a Dropout Prevention Specialist Certificate program within 90 days of the date of hire. AB 841 will be effective on January 1, 2004.

For information regarding AB 841 contact Assemblymember Vargas’ Legislative Director, Ermelinda Ruiz at (916) 319-2627. For additional information about the M&M Program or the DataQuest API Report contact the California Dropout Prevention Network at (831) 425-0299 or visit www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/.

Vargas represents the seventy-ninth assembly district in the California State Legislature, which includes parts of San Diego, Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach and National City.

###