



PARENT REVOLUTION aims to transform public education rooted in what’s good for kids—not grown-up—by empowering parents to transform their own children’s low-performing schools through community organizing.

Parent Revolution was integral in creating, passing and implementing California’s Parent Trigger law – the historic right that empowers parents through community organizing to change their children’s school. Under the Parent Trigger, parents at persistently low-performing schools can organize and transform their school based on what’s good for children, not adults. If they are able to gather 51% of parent signature at their school their district must implement one of four turnaround models (including in-district reforms such as staff changes and out-of-district reforms such as charter conversion).

After the law passed in early 2010, Parent Revolution successfully worked with parents at McKinley Elementary School in Compton, CA, to organize and submit signatures representing over 61% of the school’s student population.

Since the McKinley campaign, Parent Revolution has been organizing parents throughout California to establish formal, school-based, autonomous, and highly structured organizations called “Parents Union” chapters. These Parents Union chapters develop internal structure and steering communities and design individual campaigns for policy changes at their local school with the technical assistance and guidance of Parent Revolution organizers. The campaigns chosen by each Parent Union will depend on the unique conditions of its school and may include a Parent Trigger petition drive.

Shirley Ford

Shirley is an original member of our first small staff and has the distinction of being one of the Los Angeles Parents Union's founders along with former staff member Mary Najera and current Parent Revolution board member Karen Robinson. Shirley is a dedicated, outspoken leader on behalf of education reform and parent's rights, and her leadership on these important issues is recognized throughout California and nationwide. Shirley is a preeminent organizer, who played a central role in our campaign that led to the successful passage of LAUSD's Public School Choice Resolution. Her tireless efforts were also instrumental in the narrow passage of California's Parent Trigger law – the first in the nation. Shirley serves in a variety of roles for Parent Revolution, including Senior Organizer and Director of African-American Affairs.

Her passion for parent's rights and quality public education comes from her own experience raising her boys. Two of her sons, Robert and Hamid, were given the opportunity to attend Green Dot public schools and are now both enrolled in college, the first in their family to do so. Shirley has seen firsthand that great public schools are possible and that all children can learn, and is passionate about empowering parents to obtain great schools for their children, especially children in under-served and historically marginalized communities. Shirley is not only the mother of three wonderful sons, but also a proud grandmother of two.