



# school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 4, 2011

## Dooley School Earns International Status

Dooley Elementary School has gained authorization to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, bringing the rigorous, internationally recognized college preparatory system to the North Long Beach school.

Dooley's new program will help to prepare students for challenging middle school and high school work.

Like Advanced Placement courses, IB high school courses are rigorous college prep classes

honored at the best universities worldwide as indicative of outstanding academic training. IB students learn a second language and the skills to live and work internationally.

Before authorizing the program, IB officials analyze the school's existing resources and visit the campus. Teachers and the principal receive IB-coordinated training.

Long Beach first began offering IB in 1992 at Jordan High School, where students can earn the International Diploma, a designation that is recognized by the world's leading universities. LBUSD's Hudson K-8 School began offering IB in 2008, and Lindsey Academy (grades 6-8) earned the designation last fall.

The International Baccalaureate Organization was established in the 1960s to provide curriculum for children of ambassadors worldwide so they might receive uniform, high-quality preparation for college. IB has since grown and has been offered at select public and private schools in 140 countries.



## LBUSD Gets an 'A' For Transparency

The Long Beach Unified School District earned an "A" grade in a recent statewide audit report detailing whether public education agencies provide public records as required.

The nonprofit Californians Aware issued the report using a traditional A to F grading scale. Beginning last November, the organization began auditing more than 250 public education institutions statewide.

After more than a month of correspondence and document collection, CalAware scored each agency on their compliance with both the California Public Records Act and the Political Reform Act, which help to ensure the people's right to know how their state and local governments are functioning.

Learn more at [calaware.org](http://calaware.org).

## More Cuts OK'd as Layoff Notes Go to 1,186

The Board of Education approved \$7.8 million more in budget cuts to central operations this week and eliminated three graduation requirements while nearly 1,200 employees began receiving preliminary layoff notices. The cuts are due to multi-billion-dollar reductions to public education in the Golden State, which remains incapable of providing stable funding for its schoolchildren.

The cuts, which follow more than \$50 million in budget reductions by the board last month, are part of the school district's efforts

to plan for a worst-case budget scenario that would occur if voters statewide do not approve the extension of certain taxes that are set to expire.

The reductions to central functions – which have already sustained significant cuts in recent years – will again affect a wide array of services, including school safety, research, multimedia services, the superintendent, deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent offices, Personnel Commission, curriculum and (Continued on next page)

## CSULB Among Top 50 'Best Values' in U.S.

California State University, Long Beach has been named one of the nation's 50 "Best Value" public colleges by The Princeton Review and USA Today.

CSULB's latest accolade is a boost to the Long Beach College Promise, a collaborative effort among the university, the Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach City College. The College Promise, now in its third year, guarantees LBUSD graduates admission to CSULB and a free semester at LBCC.

With about 70 percent of LBUSD's student

population disadvantaged enough to qualify for free lunches at school, the relative value of the local university is critical to the College Promise. The combined efforts of LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB are for many students their only chance at upward mobility. All of these efforts are in serious jeopardy as the state continues to cut funding for the three institutions.

The good news, however, is that in its profile of CSULB on USA Today's website, the editors at The Princeton Review noted, "Lots (Continued on next page)

## CBS, Fox 11 Detail School District's Success

Recent stories on two major TV news shows spotlight some of the Long Beach Unified District's most innovative and successful efforts.

The two segments, which remain available online, include a five-minute KCBS-5 San Francisco story on LBUSD's successful reforms, including its pioneering use of student performance data to improve achievement. To view this story, go to [cbssf.com](http://cbssf.com), then Watch and Listen, then Video on Demand (type Long Beach Education in the search field below).

A second segment from Fox 11 News in Los Angeles highlights The Long Beach College Promise, a collaborative initiative with Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. To view this three-minute segment, type Long Beach College Promise in the search field at [myfoxla.com](http://myfoxla.com).

CBS-5 interviewed students, staff and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser while visiting Signal Hill Elementary School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, explaining why Long Beach schools have fared better academically than many others despite significant challenges, including budget cuts.

"One school district is proving that despite all the problems, we can do better for our kids," CBS-5 reported. "Everyone from the top on down has expectations to meet, and there are no excuses. The children's progress

is followed with laser-like precision."

The Fox 11 story followed local fourth graders on a recent visit to Long Beach City College.

All fourth graders in LBUSD visit LBCC, and all fifth graders visit Cal State Long Beach as part of the College Promise.



**UP TO THE CHALLENGE** — Signal Hill Elementary School third grader Imani Wiley tells CBS that she likes school because it's fun and challenging.



**WINNING TEAM** – Educational Partnership High School teacher Andrew Margolin and his daughter, Makena, a second grader at Fremont Elementary School, relish their win at the 6th annual Father/Daughter Dance contest. The charity dance was held recently in Belmont Shore by community activist Justin Rudd.

## Business Partners Meet NFL Champ

The Association of Long Beach Educational Managers heard from a surprise guest speaker at its annual breakfast to honor school business partners recently. Poly High School graduate and three-time Superbowl champ Willie McGinest urged greater investment in education and thanked Long Beach schools for nurturing his talent early on.

“It’s because of people like you that I am where I am today... We should be pouring more money into this system than anything else,” McGinest said. The former straight-A student praised the patience and perseverance of the teachers, coaches and principals who helped him.

McGinest was joined by fellow guest speaker and Poly grad Robert Alexander, a real estate and commercial development specialist with Keller Williams Realty Coastal Properties.

At the breakfast, ALBEM honored 95 new business partners for their contributions to local schools. These additional business partners bring the total number of new and continuing business partners to an all-time high of 1,322.

Earning the most new partnerships this year was Hughes Middle School with 12.

## Cuts in Bus Service

As a result of the state budget crisis, the Board of Education in February OK’d more than \$1 million in cuts to transportation services for next school year.

The Transportation Branch has since provided further details on which schools will be affected. Learn more about the busing cuts under the February 22 heading in the Budget Update section at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

Information for parents whose children may be affected by busing cuts are receiving information from the schools that their children attend.

## • Layoffs, More Cuts in ‘Worst Case’ Plan

(Continued from first page)  
textbook services, library services, and several business office functions such as accounting, purchasing, information services, transportation, human resources, risk management and maintenance. The latest central office cuts affect 71.6 positions, including 34 maintenance jobs.

Nearly 1,200 certificated employees – mostly teachers – meanwhile began receiving preliminary layoff notices this week. The notices are being distributed after the school board OK’d the potential elimination of hundreds of positions last month. While nearly 800 positions were approved in February for possible elimination, the school district is issuing nearly 1,200 preliminary layoff notices to allow for the “bumping” process in which employees with the most seniority can bump other employees out of their positions. Such over-noticing of employees is common in school districts, which must issue preliminary layoff notices by mid-March to preserve their

ability to layoff employees for the following school year.

Aside from teachers, job cuts here in California’s third largest school district also are affecting administrators, librarians, nurses, psychologists, counselors and support staff.

This week’s actions by the school board included the elimination of computer, health, and service learning graduation requirements, in keeping with recent budget reductions. The three graduation requirements are not state mandated, but they had been adopted in previous years by the local school board.

The number of credits required to attain a high school diploma will decrease from 220 to 210 beginning with the class of 2015. Health and computer literacy will still be offered as electives, and the school district is integrating service learning into other coursework.

LBUSD has cut its budget by more than \$200 million since 2008.

Documentation on this week’s cuts is available under Budget Update at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## • CSULB Deemed a Bargain in USA Today

(Continued from first page)  
of excellent, career-oriented academic options and a fabulous location are a few of the features that make CSULB an attractive destination. There are eight colleges and tons of majors. Engineering is particularly strong, and the nursing program has an excellent reputation. The faculty gets stellar reviews from students.”

Also nationally recognized at CSULB is the College of Education, which produces most of LBUSD’s teachers.

## Teacher Transfers

Human Resource Services is now accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2011-12 school year. Please refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Request for Transfer forms are available at schools and the TALB Office, and at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Human Resource Services, then “For Current Employees.”

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply is May 1. Call ext. 8635 for more information.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net)

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

FELTON WILLIAMS, President  
DAVID BARTON, Vice President  
JOHN MCGINNIS, Member  
JON MEYER, Member  
MARY STANTON, Member  
CAMILLE SANTIAGO, Student Member

The Princeton Review selected 100 institutions – 50 public and 50 private – as its “best value” choices for 2011 based on its surveys of administrators and students at 650 colleges and universities the company regards as the nation’s academically best undergraduate institutions. The selection criteria covered more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, costs of attendance and financial aid.

Cal State Long Beach was the only California State University campus making the list of the top 50 public institutions and one of just seven public California universities on the list. The other six were all campuses of the University of California system.

“We are very pleased to once again be ranked among the top 50 best public university values in the nation,” said CSULB President F. King Alexander.

“This ranking also indicates to taxpayers, consumers, students and parents that the high price tag associated with many colleges and universities nationwide has nothing to do with the quality of the educational experience being offered,” Alexander said.

## Open House Dates Changed to May

Open House dates for most schools have been postponed from April to May because of employee layoff hearing dates that conflict with the original April schedule.

The Board of Education here OK’d the revised dates this week. Open House occurs during Public Schools Week, which will now be May 23 to 27. The revised schedule is:

- Monday, May 23 – Elementary School Open House
- Tuesday, May 24 – Middle School Open House
- Wednesday, May 25 – High School Open House

Some schools, primarily Track B calendar sites, have selected alternative dates that have been approved through a waiver process. Each school will notify parents of any revised dates.