



# school bulletin

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

December 5, 2014

## Teachers to Vote On 5 Percent Raise

Bargaining teams for the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach have reached a tentative agreement that includes a 5 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1 of this year. The tentative deal is subject to ratification by TALB's membership and then approval by the Board of Education.

A ratification vote by TALB's membership is scheduled for Dec. 9 to 11. The school board would consider the agreement shortly after the membership's ratification. If the contract is approved, teachers could receive retroactive checks by the end of February. The 5 percent increase also applies to career increments (longevity), retroactive to July 1.

When combined with last year's 3 percent raise, the tentative deal brings the total salary increase to 8 percent over two years, with no monthly premium co-payment for health plans.

The tentative agreement includes minor increases in deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket limits for the PPO health plan, but there is still no monthly premium co-payment for this plan. These minor changes to the PPO plan would not take effect until 2016.

Other features of the tentative deal include:

- A Local Control Funding Formula class size alternative agreement;
- A Special Day Class agreement allowing the average size of these classes to increase from 12 to 14;
- Language allowing kindergarten teachers to choose to work with kindergarten students or in other classrooms;
- A change in the health plan year from the current calendar year to match the school district's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). A shift in open enrollment would take place in May, with changes effective July 1.

The proposed contract would run through June 30, 2015.

**30 YEARS OF SPECTACULAR** – Jordan High School students perform at Cabrillo High School during the recent High School Band Spectacular, which marked its 30th year with performances by marching bands and dance, drill and tall flag teams. View more photos at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED** – The Long Beach College Promise, which helps more students prepare for and succeed in college, was featured at President Obama's College Opportunity Day of Action in Washington, D.C. Local education leaders attended and stayed for the National Christmas Tree Lighting.

## Local Schools Featured at White House Event

Leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach joined President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and First Lady Michelle Obama this Thursday along with hundreds of college presidents and other higher education leaders to announce new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

Just prior to President Obama's remarks, Long Beach's signature education collaborative, the Long Beach College Promise, was featured prominently during a live-streaming, national panel discussion, where LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley detailed the ongoing effort that has brought significant gains in college readiness, enrollment and success.

The White House College Opportunity Day of Action at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. followed the first College Opportunity Day held last January, when the President and First Lady joined more than 140 college presidents and other education leaders to announce com-

mitments to expand college opportunity.

"At the heart of the American ideal," the President said this week, "is this sense that we're in it together, that nobody's guaranteed success, but everybody's got access to the possibilities of success, and that we are willing to work not just to make sure our own children have pathways to success but that everybody does – that at some level everybody is our kid, everybody is our responsibility. We are going to give back to everybody. And we do that because it's the right thing to do, and we do it because selfishly that's how this country's going to advance and everybody's going to be better off. Big challenges like these should galvanize our country."

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## Attendance Rises, Suspensions Drop

Attendance rates are up while the number of suspensions has decreased in local schools.

Each month so far this school year has seen an increase in attendance rates compared to the prior year, with November data showing a full percentage point increase. The districtwide attendance rate has now reached 97 percent.

Suspensions are down significantly for each month so far this school year. The most recent month of data shows 190 suspensions districtwide, compared to 568 suspensions for the same period last year. That's a reduction of two-thirds for the period.

The Long Beach Unified School District in recent years has implemented incentive programs to improve attendance, and the Board of Education approved a resolution a year ago urging schools to build on their efforts to provide alternatives to suspensions.

The newest data were shared publicly by LBUSD's Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation at a recent school board workshop.

## • White House Spotlights College Promise

(Continued from first page)

Big challenges like these should unite us.”

This week’s event was designed to build on the commitments announced at the January event, with more than 300 college presidents and other leaders launching initiatives in new areas. Among those college presidents was CSULB President Jane Close Conoley, who committed to raising freshman graduation rates by 5 percent per year by 2020 and then another 5 percent by 2025. With about 4,000 freshmen admitted each year, these increases would translate to 2,000 additional graduates by 2025. The university also is committing to building upon the Long Beach College Promise collaboration that began in 2008 with LBUSD and LBCC.

“Cal State Long Beach is proud to share its part in the Long Beach College Promise’s success with President Obama, Vice President Biden, First Lady Michelle Obama and all the participants in this Day of Action,” Conoley said. “Since the Promise first launched in 2008, the university has seen a 43 percent increase in freshmen enrolling from the Long Beach Unified School District. And, College Promise freshmen from Long Beach Unified and transfers from Long Beach City College remain enrolled at a higher rate than non-local California students. Those are things to shout about!”

At the invitation of President Obama and the First Lady, Conoley joined LBCC President Oakley and LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer at the event. The all-day program’s schedule included remarks from President Obama, the First Lady and the Vice President.

“President Obama recognizes that increasing the number of college graduates, particularly for students of color, is critical to our nation’s future,” said LBCC’s President Oakley. “Here in Long Beach, we’re making great strides toward increasing college access for all students. We’re fully committed to building upon our work with our K-12 schools and state university, and we’re delighted to share our successes on this national stage.”

All three education leaders from Long Beach, also at the invitation of the White House, were invited to attend the National Christmas Tree Lighting the same evening (learn more at [thenationaltree.org](http://thenationaltree.org)).

This week’s event focused on building networks of colleges for promoting completion, investing in high school counselors as part of the First Lady’s Reach Higher initiative, creating K-16 partnerships to improve college readiness, and increasing the number of college graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. The day of action helps to support the President’s commitment to partner with colleges and universities, business leaders and nonprofits to help the United States reach its goal of leading the world in college attainment.

President Obama announced new ways his Administration is helping to support these actions, including \$10 million to help promote college completion, and a \$30 million AmeriCorps program to improve low-income students’ access to college.

Expanding opportunity for more students to enroll and succeed in college, especially low-income and underrepresented students, is vital to building a strong economy and a strong middle class, according to a White House statement. Today, only 9 percent of those born in the lowest family income quartile attain a

bachelor’s degree by age 25, compared to 54 percent in the top quartile. To expand college access, the Obama Administration has increased Pell scholarships by \$1,000 a year, created the new American Opportunity Tax Credit worth up to \$10,000 over four years of college, limited student loan payments to 10 percent of income, and laid out an agenda to reduce college costs and promote innovation and competition, the White House stated.

The event this week also focused on building sustainable collaborations in communities with strong K-12 and higher education partnerships, including partnerships such as the Long Beach College Promise.

“It’s a great honor to be invited to the White House College Opportunity Summit to share what’s working in Long Beach schools,” LBUSD’s Superintendent Steinhauer said. “Our college and career readiness efforts are producing solid results for students, and we’re always building on these efforts. One of the ways we continually improve is by learning from other communities that have strong K-12 and higher education partnerships, and a summit like this one helps educators exchange their best ideas. We’re proud to be part of such a worthwhile endeavor at the national level.”

The College Promise was first signed in 2008 by leaders from LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB to help students prepare for, and succeed in, college. LBUSD graduates can receive a tuition-free semester at LBCC and guaranteed admission to CSULB if they meet minimum requirements at the university.

More than 5,600 high school graduates have benefited from free enrollment at the city college in the fall semester, and LBCC and LBUSD students have shown that they are more likely to remain enrolled at the university than other students.

The College Promise was described as a national model in a case study by the Washington, D.C.-based Business Higher Education Forum. The Little Hoover Commission, an independent agency that recommends ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state programs, cited the College Promise as a successful model, saying “more LBUSD graduates are enrolling in post-secondary courses at the city college or state university; they are better prepared than their peers from other school districts, and fewer are dropping out after their first semester.”

In October of this year, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia joined the leaders of LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB in signing a renewed and expanded Long Beach College Promise.

Learn more about the College Promise at [longbeachcollegepromise.org](http://longbeachcollegepromise.org).

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Free SAT Prep Now Available to Juniors

The Long Beach Unified School District is offering free SAT preparation for high school juniors who have passed both the math and English CAHSEE Exams, have at least 100 credits, and are on track for graduation and completion of the A-G college entrance requirements.

The program offers 37 total hours of SAT prep: 24 hours of instruction, 10 hours of practice exams and three hours of college planning. The hours are spread across eight Saturday morning sessions at Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson schools between January and March 2015.

Additional information is available at [lbschools.net/satprep](http://lbschools.net/satprep), where registration continues through Dec. 9 at 11:59 p.m. for qualified students.

## Students Receive Free Eyeglasses

School nurses are working with the non-profit Vision To Learn to provide students with free eyeglasses.

Students are pre-screened by a school nurse to determine whether they need glasses. Then Vision To Learn’s mobile clinic conducts an exam and provides the free glasses.

The clinic’s work in Long Beach began at Lincoln and Edison elementary schools. Most recently the clinic served about 50 students at Harte Elementary School.

Vision To Learn started two years ago in Los Angeles and has since provided more than 16,000 children with free glasses. The organization, which serves students from disadvantaged communities, says UCLA research shows improvement in the grades of students who have been served by the program.

School nurse Lucy Carbajal of Harte and Signal Hill elementary schools is coordinating the Long Beach effort.

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

## Job Share

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2015-16 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

- Jan. 16 — Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

- March 1 — Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Please submit the above items to Human Resource Services, Attention: Job Share. For additional information, call ext. 8106.

## In Memoriam

**Fabricio Baroni**  
teacher, McKinley  
Nov. 19, 2014