



September 15, 2017

## In Public Schools, We're All Dreamers

By Christopher J. Steinhauer  
Superintendent of Schools

In recent days I've had the pleasure of visiting more than a dozen of our schools. At each campus, I felt like school had never stopped for summer. Students and employees resumed their important routines just like clockwork.

I saw staff reviewing goals for the year. I observed great instructional strategies being used by teachers, with students collaborating and producing exceptional work. I enjoyed watching student ambassadors welcoming freshmen to high school with tremendous positive energy. I helped to greet the very first class of ninth graders at brand new Browning High School. Elsewhere I chatted with a kindergartner who proudly informed me that he had learned all his colors. Then he made my day by saying, "Thank you, Mr. S."

These scenes felt even more poignant as we learned about the suspension of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which enables "Dreamers" – young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the country as children – to live, study and work in the United States. The suspension of DACA runs counter to our school district's firm commitment to all students.

In our public schools, we're all dreamers – students, parents and employees alike striving for a better world. That's what America is about. That's what our schools are about. That's why we remain undeterred in our vital mission.

Behind the scenes, so many employees contributed their talents and energy to make sure the school year started safely and smoothly. Parents did an amazing job helping their children arrive at school looking sharp and ready to learn.

We also started the school year with encouraging news about student achievement. We saw significant gains on state test scores, and all student subgroups improved here, including all racial/ethnic subgroups, students learning English as their second language, special education students, and homeless and foster children. We're already hard at work analyzing data and making adjustments as we aim to close remaining achievement gaps.

Thank you to everyone whose persistence makes our improvement possible. Together, we're keeping dreams alive, and that's some of the most important work in the world. I wish you every possible success this school year.



Steinhauer

## LBUSD Called a Model for Local Control

California is on the right track with its efforts to return more control of funding to local schools, and the state can improve further by learning from successful districts, says a new report by world renowned education researcher Michael Fullan. Among those successful districts are Long Beach and Garden Grove, states a related article by EdSource writer John Fensterwald.

The recent article and report examine the implementation of California's Local Control Funding Formula since its inception in 2013.

"Even though its implementation has been somewhat bumpy and cumbersome, LCFF is viewed positively across California's education system – from central offices to school districts," states Fullan's report, co-authored by Santiago Rincón-Gallardo. "There is a widely shared perception that the new funding structure is much better than the older one and that the system is moving in the right direction."

Fullan advises policymakers and other lead-

ers around the world on how to help all children learn. He holds honorary doctorates from several universities, and he's a best-selling author whose books have been published in multiple languages. He's also known as a fan of Long Beach, having published a case study on LBUSD earlier this year, when he stated, "The district has been remarkably successful at articulating and operationalizing a vision that all students can achieve at high standards."

View the most recent, 26-page report by Fullan at [michaelfullan.ca](http://michaelfullan.ca). The report, which includes several recommendations, is part of the "California's Golden Opportunity" series by Fullan and is titled "Taking Stock: Leadership from the Middle." Fullan defines "the middle" as the 1000-plus districts and key intermediary agencies in California's education system. View the recent EdSource piece at [edsources.org](http://edsources.org), where the article is titled "Friendly critic of California's school district reforms issues warning."

## Why Long Beach Retains More Teachers

National education writer Jeff Bryant, in the second of a continuing series of articles on Long Beach schools, highlights "the structural supports that make it more likely the talents of teachers come out." He credits such support for Long Beach's ability to retain teachers and "perform above average in the perpetually difficult work of educating students who struggle the hardest in school."

Bryant is the editor of the Education Opportunity Network website and has written extensively about public education policy. His latest work, "A Southern California District Resists Bad Education Policy," appeared recently in *The Progressive*, a Wisconsin-based magazine that has published since 1909 and is available at [progressive.org](http://progressive.org). To find the full

article there, search by title.

Bryant visited Millikan High School, where he spoke with teachers and learned that they are constantly working to improve their practice.

"To this end, the district has committed to providing ample opportunities and resources... The teachers in Long Beach are showing that when given sufficient resources and supports to meet the needs and interests of students, they can get the job done," Bryant states, noting that LBUSD has steadily improved its graduation rate and surpasses the rest of the state on key measures such as attendance, percentage of high school graduates meeting state college level requirements, and percentage of nonwhite students taking Advanced Placement courses in

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**BRAND NEW –** Browning High School, adjacent to Signal Hill, welcomed its first class of about 150 ninth graders this school year. The school will focus on college and career readiness, with an emphasis on culinary arts, hospitality and recreation. Learn more and view photos and video at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



## Names in the News

Students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science competed with their remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) on the June 23 to 25 Marine Advanced Technology Education contest held in the Viking Aquatics pool at Long Beach City College. The event was a meeting of the top teams from regional contests in 40 locations around the world. CAMS earned 16th place. Members of the CAMS team are **Jaijer Ho, Isaac Neile-Zanoria, Ted Lin, Brad Bischocho, Celia Yu, Isaac Addis, Jesse Leal and Kentaro Vadney**. Supporting the team is **Sandra Barnett**, a computer science teacher.

**Erin Simon**, director of Student Support Services, recently earned a 2017 Pioneer Spirit Award from the Long Beach East Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

"Dr. Simon's creative and enthusiastic leadership has worked to extend a positive influence in the educational arena," said Laurie Pollard, Stake Director of Public Affairs. "We have observed the success of LBUSD's 'All-In' campaign, which has raised vital awareness of the devastating consequences of chronic truancy and offers hope to struggling youth and parents by linking them with beneficial support systems. That very campaign has resulted in our Stake's adoption of Jefferson Middle School where we have been able to assist in meeting the needs of its teachers, parents and students."

## Pink Patch Project Funds Cancer Fight

School Safety officers in the Long Beach Unified School District are part of the 2017 Pink Patch Project to raise awareness about cancer prevention and to fund research, treatment and care of those who battle, or have battled, cancer. The collaborative effort includes various law enforcement agencies. Throughout the month of October, participating agencies will sell commemorative pink law enforcement patches and T-shirts with all proceeds going to the project. During October, uniformed personnel will proudly wear their pink patches as a reminder of their dedication and commitment to the effort.

To buy commemorative T-shirts starting at \$20 or an LBUSD patch for \$10, contact Danny Coronel at dcoronel@lbschools.net or 997-8006. Follow #PinkPatchProject on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Proceeds go to the Todd Cancer Institute at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

## CalSTRS Seminars

California State Teachers' Retirement System seminars will be offered 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 1515 Hughes Way (Room 143), or 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10 at the same location.

Presentation topics include CalSTRS service retirement allowance and retirement options, and updates on legislation and disability and survivor benefits. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

Space is limited. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 20 at 997-8214. Registration also is available via myPD (course #7702, sections 7675, 7676 or 7677).

## • Teacher Support Key to Retention, Results

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high school.

At Millikan, teachers have helped to customize curricular pathways for students. For example, the school's PEACE pathway, which focuses on social justice, was conceived by teachers who wanted students to become more invested in their studies.

"District staff nurtured the idea, but teachers led the way," Bryant states. "The Long Beach district's stellar support of its teaching staff is reflected in its low teacher attrition rate of 7 percent, much lower than the national average for urban school districts."

Bryant also describes teachers' implementation of Common Core Standards and the

Linked Learning initiative that creates career-oriented pathways to major California industries while linking various course subjects.

"Millikan teachers have clearly embraced Linked Learning. But not because they were forced to. Linked Learning was not mandated by the district."

Bryant cites the example of teacher Michele Mize, whose ninth graders performed "non-fiction narratives" where they presented stories conveying the results of interviews they had conducted, incorporating lesson material from other classes they've taken. Mize focuses on the critical thinking and creativity that the standards emphasize.

"I'm very confident of what I'm doing in the classroom," she said.

**‘The Long Beach district’s stellar support of its teaching staff is reflected in its low teacher attrition rate.’**

## School Librarians in International Spotlight

School librarians from throughout the world toured school libraries in the Long Beach Unified School District last month as part of the International Association of School Librarianship 46th annual international conference held at Cal State Long Beach.

"The delegates were impressed with LBUSD teacher librarian Nina Jackson's presentation on student library aide media education. They were also impressed seeing Lafayette's, Newcomb's and Wilson's school libraries and teacher librarians," said Lesley Farmer, a professor at CSULB's College of Education. "School librarians from over 30 countries came to CSULB to share their

research and professional practice."

LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer welcomed and thanked event participants with a statement in the conference's written program.

"Our school system has been fortunate enough to be recognized nationally and internationally for academic excellence and for closing achievement gaps. Our success is due in large part to the key role that teacher librarians play in our schools each day, working closely with classroom teachers to help students develop 21st Century learning skills," Steinhauer said. "One of the most critical aspects of a modern teacher librarian's work is to help young people develop the skills needed to evaluate the information that floods today's various electronic devices. These skills are essential to a successful democracy and to our students' success in a fast-paced global economy. Thank you for all that you do to prepare the next generation of students for success in college, careers and life."

## Weight Watchers

To help kick off the new school year, Weight Watchers is offering a free starter kit to employees newly enrolled by Sept. 15. Employees newly enrolled by then can redeem the free starter kit by Sept. 29 while supplies last.

A promotional flyer is available at work sites.

## Board to Meet Oct. 2

The Board of Education has moved its Wednesday, Oct. 4 meeting to Monday, Oct. 2. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the usual location, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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## In Memoriam

**Esther H. Blair**

former teacher

July 10, 2017

**Grace S. Sasaki**

former instructional aide

July 16, 2017

**Linda K. Smith**

former teacher

July 16, 2017

**Rochelle A. Jasniewicz**

former teacher

July 20, 2017

**Allison Cassidy**

former teacher

July 23, 2017

**May Randolph**

former custodian

July 23, 2017