



school bulletin

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September 22, 2006

More Schools Here Close Achievement Gaps Than Anywhere in State, S&P Report Shows

An independent report by Standard and Poor's shows that more schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are significantly closing achievement gaps than in any other California school district.

Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services announced this month that it has identified 103 California schools that have significantly narrowed reading and math achievement gaps between higher-performing and lower-performing student groups during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years.

The highly selective list includes four schools from Long Beach Unified, the most of any school district throughout the state.

"It is difficult to narrow achievement gaps,"

Team Effort Boosts Student Performance

By Chris Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

The new school year began with great news for local schools. Thanks to your dedicated efforts, the latest test results from the California Department of Education show our students making steady and solid gains. More and more schools are reaching the state's goals for academic achievement.

Most schools are meeting and often far exceeding schoolwide growth targets on the state's Academic Performance Index. In fact, the Long Beach Unified School District's performance on the API, which measures growth in student achievement, continues to surpass that of the state. The state's ultimate target for each school is an API score of 800. Our school district as a whole continues to move closer to that overall goal, with a newly calculated score of 724, up from 685 in 2003. Long Beach Unified again remains ahead of the state's average, now calculated at 720. What's more, among California's 15 largest urban school districts, Long Beach has the highest percentage of schools showing some growth on the API.

Also impressive is the number of individual schools here that have reached the state's ultimate target of 800. Twenty-five schools in our district have now reached or exceeded this high standard. That's a substantial increase from the nine schools that had met the same goal just three years ago.

Tremendous progress also is being made in
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said Thomas Sheridan, vice president of New York-based Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services. "However, this analysis shows that there are a number of schools that have made outstanding progress. Their success should be commended, and their practices should be examined to illuminate strategies that can be implemented by educators who are working hard in other parts of California to raise the performance of all students."

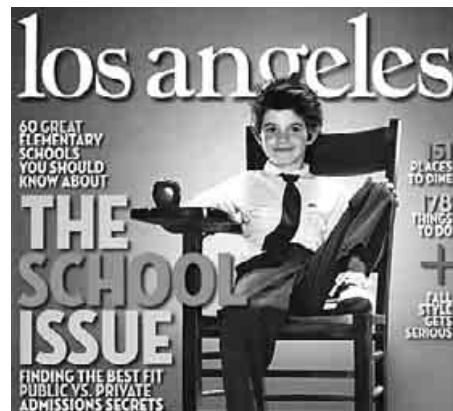
The LBUSD schools listed in the study include Hill Classical Middle School, Hoover Middle School, Marshall Middle School and Carver Elementary School.

"Closing the achievement gap is a top priority for our Board of Education," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "Congratulations to the teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and students of these schools."

"The fact that our school system has the most number of schools on this impressive list confirms our belief that children from all walks of life can and must achieve at higher levels," Steinhauser said.

The latest report represents Standard & Poor's second analysis of achievement gaps in California. This study takes a closer look at achievement gaps by focusing on schools, rather than school districts, that have made significant progress.

To be recognized in the study, schools had to reduce at least one achievement gap between student groups in reading and math proficiency rates by more than five percentage points from
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Lowell, Gant Among L.A. Magazine List Of 60 Great Schools

Lowell and Gant elementary schools are among "60 Great Schools" listed in the September edition of *Los Angeles Magazine*.

"Blue Ribbon winner Lowell is known for its strong PTA and being the top-scoring elementary in Long Beach Unified," the article states. "Gant also does well on the API (Academic Performance Index)" and "is famous for its stage productions, including some presented in partnership with neighboring Cal State Long Beach."

The list is a sampling of 60 elementary schools, both public and private, that represent different educational approaches and are noteworthy for reasons ranging from scholastic achievement to innovation.

Assistance League Provides Free Uniforms

The non-profit Assistance League and its signature program, Operation School Bell, have provided uniforms for all students at Franklin Classical Middle School this fall.

The uniform donation began in late August, and by the start of school, the Assistance League had provided enough uniforms to clothe the entire Franklin population of more than 1,000 students. Volunteers issued pants, polo shirts and sweatshirts.

Operation School Bell provides new clothing, shoes, backpacks and literacy programs, as well as health and hygiene kits to disadvantaged school children. Last year, Operation School Bell clothed more than 160,000 children nationwide.

The Long Beach chapter of Assistance League had long planned to clothe an entire student population of a local school. Franklin Middle School closed during the summer and reopened with more rigorous academic offerings this fall as Franklin Classical Middle School. The school also modified its uniform

colors to white tops, khaki bottoms and navy outerwear, presenting the perfect opportunity for the Assistance League to help an entire school. Clothing the Franklin students required about 50 percent of the chapter's budget, and their remaining budget will clothe hundreds of students at other Long Beach area schools.

Proper school clothing can improve school attendance and boost classroom performance. By providing appropriate clothing and learning materials, Operation School Bell helps children arrive in the classroom better prepared to learn. School teachers and counselors often see an immediate, positive difference in the emotional state of the children assisted by Operation School Bell.

The national Assistance League was established in the early 1900s to implement philanthropic projects. Locally, the League has been a long-time supporter of the Long Beach Unified School District's nationally recognized school uniform effort.

• Superintendent

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Advanced Placement college preparatory courses. Students who pass AP tests can earn thousands of dollars worth of college credit while getting a head start on college coursework.

Since 2003, the number of AP course enrollments in our schools has grown by about 50 percent to 3,866. Progress is being made by all groups of students. During the same three-year period, for instance, AP course enrollment for African American students increased by 75 percent. For Latino students, the number grew by 62 percent. This progress is a direct result of intensive efforts at the high school level to encourage greater participation in these advanced courses. Long Beach Unified was one of the first school districts to pay for and require students to take the PSAT exam in tenth grade, helping to identify more students who have the potential to attend college.

The increase in AP coursework, coupled with intensive efforts to help all students pass the California High School Exit Exam, is helping to give our high school students brighter futures.

While there is much more work to be done, all of you, in each of your roles, can take pride that you are helping to accomplish our vital mission: to support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day. I deeply appreciate your dedication and hard work, as do the thousands of parents who entrust their children to our care.

Best wishes for a safe and successful school year.

Dates to Remember

October	Character Education Month Computer Learning Month Crime Prevention Month Disabilities Employment Awareness Month Filipino American History Month
2	Yom Kippur
3	Back to School Night—Middle Schools
4	Back to School Night—High Schools 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Columbus,” Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—“Christopher Columbus,” Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“School Bus Safety,” Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
7-8	Sukkot
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Study Skills: Take That Test,” Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
8-14	Fire Prevention Week
8-14	National Metric Week
9	Columbus Day/Discoverers’ Day
9-13	National School Lunch Week
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“The Columbus Controversy” (Columbus Day), Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Riding Your School Bus Safely,” Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“First Tuesday,” Grade 12, ed.tv 8
15-21	National School Bus Safety Week
16	National Bosses’ Day
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“You Can Refuse,” Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—“Harriet Tubman,” Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Beginning Responsibility: Learning to be a Good Sport,” Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares,” Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
23-27	Red Ribbon Week—Observed in LBUSD
23-31	National Red Ribbon Week
24	United Nations Day
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Library World,” Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
26	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—“Halloween,” Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Going to School is Your Job,” Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
28	Make a Difference Day
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—“Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules,” Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
29	Standard Time Day
31	Halloween

Aspiring Architect

Amber Hines, a senior at Wilson Classical High School, won the bronze medal at the NAACP 29th National ACT-SO academic competition in Arlington, Virginia this summer.

Amber competed in the Science-Architecture category. She designed and built a beach house model. Her award included \$1,000 and a laptop computer.

Amber plans to major in architectural design in college. One of the judges at the competition offered her a full scholarship to Howard University should she decide to attend there in fall 2007.



Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 10 in the Administration Building Community Room. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

Additional meetings will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on November 14 at the Administration Building, December 12 at Wilson, January 8 at Millikan, February 13 at the Administration Building, March 12 at Lakewood, April 24 at Jordan and May 7 at Cabrillo.

The Job Board

• McKinley Elementary School seeks a Reading First coach who is highly knowledgeable in grades K-3 Open Court Literacy. Job duties include providing professional development and demonstration lessons. Submit a letter of interest or a resume to Thomas Espinoza, principal. For information, call ext. 2640.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for Human Resources technician, instructional aide-instrumental music, instructional aide-speech and language communication, instructional aide-speech and language communication-bilingual Spanish, instructional assistant-Adult School literacy services, salary services supervisor, senior executive secretary (C), and transportation aide-bilingual Spanish.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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• S&P Report

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one year to the next; and simultaneously raise those rates for each student group compared.

Hill Classical Middle School was recognized for closing achievement gaps among African American and white students in seventh grade reading and eighth grade math. Marshall Middle School closed achievement gaps among African American and white students in eighth grade reading and sixth grade math. Hoover Middle School closed achievement gaps among Hispanic and white students in eighth grade reading and in sixth and eighth grade math. Carver Elementary School closed gaps among economically disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students in second and fifth grades for reading and math.

S&P is a world leader in providing business data. Since 2001, S&P's School Evaluation Services has worked to provide educators and taxpayers with an objective, independent analysis of school data to allow effective implementation of school reform.

S&P provides its data and analysis to the public on a free, interactive website at www.SchoolMatters.com.

The latest report was produced through the National Education Data Partnership, which is funded by The Broad Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Intervention Teachers

The PALMS Office is establishing a pool of teachers for after-school or Saturday intervention classes. These teachers will be paid their additional hourly rate. The intervention will include a complete curriculum with a course outline or pacing chart.

Contact Kathy Reich at ext. 8638, or by e-mail at kreich@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

Bowling League Meets

The organizational meeting of the Teachers' Bowling League will be held at Cal Bowl in Lakewood on Wednesday, September 27 at 4 p.m. Any school employee, retiree or spouse may participate. League play starts Wednesday, October 11. For information, call 423-7839.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Hodges
former librarian
May 6, 2006

Patricia Holmes
intermediate office assistant, Riley
July 19, 2006

John Lee
former teacher
July 31, 2006

Norberto Damian
intermediate Nutrition Services worker,
Central Kitchen
August 11, 2006

Linda Heim
former teacher
September 8, 2006