



school bulletin

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

April 12, 2013

Grad Rates Up As Six Schools Top 90%

Graduation rates continue to rise in the Long Beach Unified School District. Data released by the state this week show that six high schools here have achieved graduation rates of at least 90 percent – a target specified in LBUSD’s 2011-16 Strategic Plan.

African American and Latino students here continue to surpass the graduation rates of their counterparts in Los Angeles County and statewide, in some cases by wide margins.

Cabrillo and Jordan high schools showed strong gains. Cabrillo’s graduation rate of 83.2 percent is up 5.5 percent, and Jordan’s graduation rate of 85.1 percent is up 8.1 percent in just one year. These and other increases have boosted LBUSD’s districtwide graduation rate to more than 80 percent.

L.A. Times: Long Beach Shows the Way

A commentary piece in last Sunday’s Los Angeles Times called the Long Beach Unified School District a model school system for its ability to improve student achievement.

“Long Beach – the third largest district in the state – shows the way,” writes David L. Kirp, professor of public policy at UC Berkeley, and the author of “Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and a Strategy for America’s Schools.”

“In 2003, Long Beach won the Broad Prize, a \$500,000 award given to the urban district that excels nationwide in boosting achievement and reducing racial and ethnic achievement

Feds Consider Long Beach’s NCLB Waiver

The U.S. Department of Education issued a statement recently that it would carefully consider Long Beach’s application for a waiver from federal No Child Left Behind rules. The Long Beach Unified School District earlier this year joined eight other California school districts in submitting the waiver application.

The participating districts are part of the nonprofit California Office to Reform Education (CORE), and their collective waiver applications propose to replace the federal rules with a new, higher level of locally-driven accountability that will support efforts to prepare all students for college and careers.

“Given that the CORE districts collectively serve 1.2 million students – more than most states – we believe their request merits careful consideration,” the Education Department stated. “We commend the level of work and col-

laboration that the CORE districts have invested in their plan to date, and we are encouraged by the positive discussion among state board members regarding CORE’s application.”

The participating school districts had submitted their bundled waiver applications to the California State Board of Education for a review. With that review now completed, the process moves to the federal level.

“The Department has the authority to grant district-level waivers, and we will now move CORE’s application into the peer review process,” the Education Department stated.

Under the waiver, LBUSD would share data (Continued on next page)

18 Schools Honored For Academic Gains

The Long Beach Unified School District honored 18 elementary, middle and K-8 schools recently for student achievement gains.

The annual Outstanding Growth Awards went to schools that significantly increased their state Academic Performance Index achievement. Winners also demonstrated exceptional growth on federal Adequate Yearly Progress measurements for English and math.

This year’s winners were Avalon, Bixby, Cleveland, Franklin, Gant, Grant, Henry, Hoover, Hughes, Jefferson, Lindbergh, Lindsey, Marshall, Monroe, Nelson, Rogers, Stephens and Webster.

Winning schools were joined by school district officials during an awards ceremony at Marshall Academy of the Arts.

LBUSD Helps Shape State’s Career Ed Policy

Following the State Senate’s tour of career academies at Cabrillo High School last month, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg has authored a bill that aims to improve student career pathways through three new financing avenues.

“When we recently visited Long Beach Unified, students told us that with career academies and small learning communities they were more engaged and focused on their studies,” Steinberg said. “We want a pragmatic way to get industry and business involved in education, combining academic rigor and career relevance.”



Steinberg

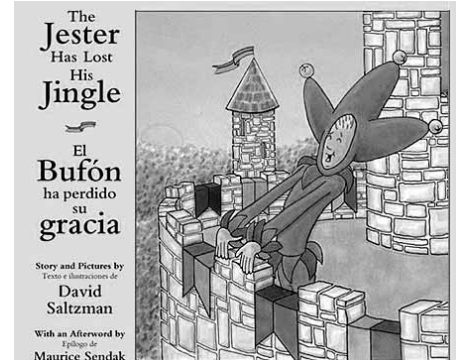
Senate Bill 594, the Dropout Reduction and Workforce Development Act of 2013, would

provide three new tools to finance the development of career pathways through public-private partnerships:

- Workforce Development Bonds would allow businesses to invest in academic career pathway programs, and to earn a rate of return higher than what’s available in traditional investments. State bond repayment would be linked to contracts outlining performance measurements such as increased graduation rates, internships, apprenticeships and high paying jobs for students.

- Career Pathways Investment Tax Credits would be provided to businesses that invest in academic and work-based learning opportunities. Applications would be reviewed and awarded on a competitive basis.

- Linked Learning Trust Funds would be established in each community college and public school district to finance career pathways programs. The trusts would accept revenue from foundation grants, employment training funds, tax revenues and other sources.



LITERACY IN TWO LANGUAGES – The book, “The Jester Has Lost His Jingle,” is the centerpiece of an award-winning literacy program that started in Long Beach. A copy of the recently released English and Spanish version of the book was donated to all school libraries here. *Story on next page.*

Promoting Literacy In Two Languages

Students at every school in the Long Beach Unified School District can now enjoy David Saltzman's popular children's book, "The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" in Spanish and English in all school libraries.

Copies of the recently released bilingual edition were donated to Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser for distribution to every school by the Spirit of Sue Fund and the Long Beach Education Foundation.

The book is the centerpiece of an award-winning literacy program, which began at Lincoln Elementary School in Long Beach. Seventeen elementary schools in the district have successfully completed these programs with read-a-thons resulting in the donation of the uplifting Jester books and dolls to Miller Children's Hospital and other local facilities.

"We're thrilled to be able to give a copy of this beloved book to every school in the district," said Jeff Fellenzer, Director of the Spirit of Sue Fund. "To have the book in a bilingual English and Spanish edition will make it very useful for students learning both English and Spanish, as well as immersion classes."

Barbara Saltzman, Executive Director of the non-profit Jester & Pharley Phund, which distributes the bestseller, presented the books at a recent Education Foundation meeting. Her son, David, wrote and illustrated the book as his senior project at Yale University just before he died of Hodgkin's disease in 1990. In the book, the Jester awakes one morning to find laughter missing in his kingdom, and he and his helpmate, Pharley, set off on a quest to find it. They discover that laughter can redeem a weary world and provide the best tonic for anyone facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

The Spirit of Sue Fund honors the memory of educator Suzanne B. Fellenzer, who served for more than 50 years as an LBUSD teacher, administrator and elementary school principal.

For more information about The Phund, visit thejester.org or call (310) 544-4733.

Summer Enrichment

The California Golden Bell award-winning Summer Enrichment Program, now in its thirteenth year, will be held at Gant Elementary School. Children entering first through eighth grades are eligible to attend the fee-based program held in three-week sessions from June 24 to July 11 and from July 15 to Aug. 1.

Classes in music and the arts, science, cooking, computers, Spanish and other topics are taught by credentialed Long Beach Unified School District staff Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost for each three-week session is \$270 or less (early registration and sibling discounts are available).

Recreation supervision is included at no additional charge for those enrolled in the program. Recreation hours are from 8 to 9 a.m. and from noon to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday from June 24 to Aug. 1. Recreation supervision also will be offered on the following Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: June 28, July 12, July 19 and July 26.

This program is managed by LBUSD's School for Adults. Learn more and find registration forms at lbschools.net under Summer Enrichment Program in the A-Z index, or contact Vicki Roberts at 595-8893, ext. 224.

• NCLB Waiver

(Continued from first page)
with other CORE districts to strengthen teaching and learning, and to identify elements that will be common among educator effectiveness and evaluation systems that each district will develop individually and implement by the 2014-15 school year.

The waiver does not supersede local bargaining rights in any way, and LBUSD's current teacher evaluation system meets federal waiver requirements.

The CORE districts hope to secure federal approval by June.

Millikan Art Exhibit

Millikan High School's Chambers Gallery presents Unlimited: Crossing Borders and Space. The exhibit continues through April 17, and then a small selection of works will be showcased at the Long Beach Museum of Art from April 28 to May 18.

The show consists of art created by students from a variety of classes in Millikan's Art Department. Works in the exhibit explore themes of borders and space. Some of the works demonstrate literal space, while others represent stereotypes and social conflicts in high school settings. Other works analyze the limitations developed by the human mind; the role national borders play in our lives, and even society's creation of invisible borders.

The Chambers Gallery was constructed by 2011 Millikan graduate Caitlin Chambers as her senior project for Millikan's QUEST program. The gallery continues to thrive thanks to generous support from Alpha Delta Kappa International, an honorary organization of women educators. The gallery is run by Millikan's museum studies class and is supported by various school fundraising efforts and the Art Department staff.

The exhibit collaboration has been generously funded by The Long Beach Museum of Art, which has been mentoring the museum studies class at Millikan.

Names in the News

Tincher Preparatory School eighth grader **Daniel Burns** competed in the 2013 California National Geographic Bee. Students with the top 100 scores from school-level competitions throughout the nation were invited to the recent statewide competition in Sacramento.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Teaching Jobs Open At New High School

An informational meeting to introduce interested secondary teachers to McBride High School is scheduled for 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, April 22 in the Community Room (Room 143) at the Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way.

The optional meeting will offer insights into the three pathways – Engineering, Health, and Public Services/Forensics – to be offered at the newly built school. Teachers who hold secondary credentials may want to attend the meeting to learn what is planned as the school prepares to open its doors with ninth graders in the fall.

For additional information on transfer opportunities for all teachers, go to Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at lbschools.net. See "Transfer Informational Postings."

Teacher of the Year

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is sponsoring the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year Program, which is open to fully credentialed teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. This includes library media teachers who collaboratively teach with classroom teachers, and adult school teachers who provide instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in the elementary or secondary grades. Instructors who have administrative responsibilities are also eligible to apply, but only if teaching is their primary responsibility.

Contact Elisa Hagen in the Professional Development Center at ehagen@lbschools.net or ext. 2900 to nominate a teacher or to request an application for yourself. The deadline for applications is May 29.

Race With a View

The Race With a View, benefitting the JFCS of Long Beach social service agency, is scheduled for 7 a.m. Sunday, April 28 at Junipero Avenue and Ocean Blvd.

The 5K/10K walk and run along the beachfront below Bluff Park helps to fund JFCS's services for individuals, families, children and older adults. Register by Tuesday, April 23 at active.com. Search for Race With a View.

Employee of the Year

LBUSD employees who know outstanding colleagues deserving recognition may submit nominations for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award by Friday, April 19.

Instructions, award criteria and nomination forms are available under "Employee of the Year (Classified)" in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

School Schedules

The Board of Education has approved revised school schedules for the 2013-14 school year.

See "School Schedules (Approved)" in the A-Z index at lbschools.net for details.