



January 31, 2014

Attendance Rises, Suspensions Drop

Attendance rates in the Long Beach Unified School District are approaching 97 percent and are up for each month so far this school year, while the number of suspensions has dropped by more than 30 percent.

The school district has implemented an attendance incentive program that provides additional funding to schools that meet school-wide and districtwide targets, and the Board of Education adopted a resolution early this school year urging schools to build on their efforts to provide alternatives to suspensions. The resolution called for the use of multiple strategies so students learn appropriate behaviors.

The districtwide attendance rate so far this year is 96.6 percent, up a percentage point over the prior school year. The number of suspensions this school year in LBUSD through December was 2,885, a decrease of 1,289 – or nearly 31 percent – compared to the same months during the prior school year.

Learn more at lbschools.net.

Feb. 11 Meeting Set On Funding Formula

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has scheduled a special meeting for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Stanford Middle School to hear an update on the school district's implementation of the state's Local Control Funding Formula. The meeting is open to the public and is for informational purposes, not for board action. Stanford Middle School is located at 5871 Los Arcos St. in Long Beach.

Learn more about the funding formula under Local Control Funding Formula in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

A Time of Change and Great Opportunity

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

Several times a year, I gather input from fellow employees at our informal Coffee with Chris meetings. At the most recent meeting this month, I heard first-hand how diligently our employees are working on a number of fronts. Your hard work also is clearly evident as I visit schools and classrooms, and I think it's time to acknowledge the magnitude of the changes that many of you are facing.

To say it's been a busy school year is an understatement. With the Common Core and our transition to new assessments, new report cards, our federal waiver from No Child Left Behind rules, and the implementation of the state's new Local Control Funding Formula, it's normal to feel apprehensive at times. These are huge changes that sometimes involve uncharted territory. That's OK. We must also remember that now is a time of tremendous opportunity.

The new academic standards under



Steinhauser

Common Core, combined with the long overdue overhaul of school finance under LCFF, represent a once-in-a-lifetime chance for us to reshape our schools for the better. Add to that mix an infusion of state funds for Common Core (including \$6 million in funding for new technology), the major grants that we've received for professional development, and the resources that LCFF will bring to the school level over the next several years, and you can see that we're poised for meaningful and lasting improvements in our school district. Schools will have more power to direct funding where it is needed most. With that increased power comes increased accountability. More than ever, we must rely upon data to make decisions at the district and school site levels.

Real change doesn't happen overnight. Sometimes it takes years. But we are well on our way, with a firm foundation to build upon, including more stable funding from the state. Our most important asset, though, is our *human capital – our dedicated employees*. Ultimately you are the ones who breathe life into these reforms by striving for a better way, by persevering and by putting students first. Here at our school district offices, we are making a continual effort to listen to the feedback of our school site employees as they take on these many challenges. We want to provide
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LGBTQ Center Honors School District

The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach recently honored the Long Beach Unified School District with a 2014 President's Award for outstanding support of The Center's mission.

The mission of The Center is to offer assistance and provide education about emotional and physical health, housing, cultural and

social activities, and legal and social justice. The organization advocates for inclusion of all with no judgment or restrictions based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Accepting the award at the State of the Center event this month were LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser and LBUSD Coordinated Student Services Director Tiffany Brown.

The school district earned the award in part for its collaborative work with The Center. LBUSD has implemented The Center's Safe Space curriculum to train more than 500 high school teachers on how to teach empathy and use appropriate vocabulary when dealing with issues of sexual orientation and gender identity at school. The program includes Safe Space classroom posters designed to help create a safe and nurturing environment for all students.

The Center also provides support to high school Gay Straight Alliance groups and is working with the school district to develop a handbook for educators regarding transgender youth.

Also earning the President's Award this year was the non-profit Downtown Long Beach Associates, which operates on behalf of the tenants and commercial and residential property owners in a business improvement district.

Learn more at centerlb.org.



MLK PARADE – Wilson Classical High School student Julia Ramos plays the mellophone during the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Long Beach. School district officials and several student groups participated in the parade. View more photos at lbschools.net.

Rotary Gives Books, Offers Literacy Grants

With this year's donation of more than \$38,000 in books, Long Beach Rotary and its charitable foundation have provided more than \$400,000 in books to local students and school libraries since 1999. And this year, Rotary is offering \$5,000 in literacy grants to teachers in pre-K through third grade classrooms.

The literacy grants of \$500 to \$2,500 are designed to reward innovative and creative reading and literacy efforts. The grants will be awarded by March and may be used to purchase books, e-books, training programs or other educational materials during this school year or the next one. The deadline to apply for the grants is Friday, Feb. 14. A brief application form can be found under Rotary Literacy Grant Application in the A-Z index at lbschools.net. Applications should be sent to Sara Myers, co-chair of the Rotary Literacy Committee, at sara.e.myers@hotmail.com.

Funds for Reading by 9 are raised each year at a single Rotary Club meeting, with donations from Long Beach Rotarians and the assistance of matching funds from private foundations.

This year, Reading by 9 will surpass 200,000 books donated. Programs supported by the book donations this year include Rotary's traditional \$2,000 Scholastic book grants to several elementary schools, and \$2,000 for three LBUSD schools to buy "best of" series book titles that are among the most popular books with students.

Rotary is continuing to offer e-book purchases as part of a pilot program started last year, and the service club is providing \$6,000 in Scholastic books for the Child Development

Center preschool program, including a book for each of the more than 1,000 preschool children in the program. Rotarians recently donated \$3,000 toward the school district's Kindergarten Festivals.

The service club also has established a Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation, which annually awards about 300 scholarships in excess of \$300,000 to local high school students (most of whom are LBUSD students) who go on to attend Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

With more than 300 members, Long Beach Rotary is the largest service club in the city and is one of the 50 largest Rotary clubs in the world.

Learn more at rotarylongbeach.org.

Dates to Remember

February

	National African-American History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	National Freedom Day
1	Groundhog Day
2	National School Counseling Week
3-7	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
5	Ronald Reagan Day
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Presidents Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
7	Lincoln Day — Holiday
10	Thomas Edison's Birthday
11	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, — "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
11	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
13	Valentine's Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	Washington Day — Holiday
17	Presidents Day
17	National PTA Founders Day
18	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
23	W.E.B. Dubois' Birthday
25	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The American Parade: We The Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
26	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "One Fine Day" and "Take The Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8

CalSTRS Update

CalSTRS has provided guidance to school districts regarding some non-teaching positions that may not be eligible for service credit. Some STRS members have been sent a packet this week from Human Resource Services. In addition, information will be sent to work locations throughout the school district starting Monday, Feb. 3 alerting all STRS members. Be sure to review the information to determine whether your service credit may be impacted. If you determine that you are potentially impacted, all relevant documents must be submitted to HRS no later than April 11 for processing. Current and former employees who are potentially impacted may be able to remain in STRS if they submit the proper paperwork on time. Paperwork does not need to be submitted for retired members at this time, according to a Jan. 27 update from CalSTRS.

Go to Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at lbschools.net and click on "For Current Employees" to access information related to the STRS Retirement Election.

Leaves, Retirements

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2014-15 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator by March 1. Obtain forms from site secretaries or at lbschools.net under Human Resource Services. Click on "For Current Employees."

Recent STRS legislation limits retirees from substituting during the first 180 days of retirement. Learn more at calstrs.com.

Summer Jobs For Classified Workers

Extended School Year (ESY) classified summer employment is only available to current 10-month classified employees of the Long Beach Unified School District. Applications must be received by Friday, March 21.

The summer application is available under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at lbschools.net or at schools and departments. Send completed applications by U.S. Mail, district mail or by dropping off in person. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

ESY for Special Education at the pre-K, elementary, middle and transition levels will be held June 30 to July 25. High school level will be held June 30 to Aug. 1. Pending board approval, general education summer school will occur at all comprehensive high schools from June 30 to Aug. 1.

Questions? Call Mary Cates, Human Resources supervisor, at ext. 7285.

Kindergarten Fests

The third of four Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2014-15 kindergartners and their families is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 8 at International Elementary School, 700 Locust Ave., Long Beach. The popular Saturday festivals include parent workshops, free school supplies, dental screenings and lots of fun activities.

The final festival of the school year will be 9 a.m. to noon on March 15 at the Buffum Total Learning Center, 2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach.

Registration for the festivals begins at 8:45 a.m. Call 435-4080, ext. 19 for more information.

• Supt. Steinhauser

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the support that our employees need to serve our students better, especially students who struggle and need the most help.

I have seen your work over these many years, through good times and bad, and I have the utmost confidence that the Long Beach Unified School District will again rise to the occasion and continue to serve as a model for public school systems nationwide. The result will be greater opportunity and a brighter future for thousands of children. If you have concerns or comments as you undertake this important work, you can always email me directly at cstein@lbschools.net.

Thank you for all that you do for our students.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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In Memoriam

Reyna Diaz Ramirez
instructional aide, Tucker
Dec. 24, 2013