Local Control and Accountability Plan Highlights

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Planning for Excellence
Dear Friends,

In the Long Beach Unified School District, our daily work is guided by our vital mission: to support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day. The families we serve have big hopes and dreams for their children. We share those hopes and dreams, so we take great care when developing our plans and allocating resources. Our plans are detailed in a 250-page state-required document known as the Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Highlights of that plan are provided here in three main sections:

- Academic Excellence
- Basic Services – A Foundation for Excellence
- A Team Effort – Parents, Students and School

After those sections, you’ll find family resources to support academic achievement.

Included with the highlights in this publication are some results of our efforts so far. You’ll see that our work is paying off with significant gains in student success. Much credit for that success goes to the diverse group of school and community representatives who spend many hours providing us input as we refine our plans and continue to improve, year after year.

Thank you to everyone who supports our students and schools. Together, we’ll keep dreaming big.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools
Schools Closing Achievement Gaps by 50 Percent or More:

Many schools showed at least 10 percent growth on state tests.

The Long Beach Unified School District has earned a reputation as one of America’s top school systems, winning many awards as a national and international model of excellence. The school district continually strives to improve by carefully analyzing student performance data and allocating resources where they are most needed. Part of that improvement process is the Local Control and Accountability Plan, which includes several goals aimed at improving student achievement. Examples of such goals include:

- Students will make academic progress on the Common Core State Standards.
- Students will demonstrate readiness for college and careers.
- Students will participate and excel in rigorous coursework, including Advanced Placement.

Test Scores Rise, All Groups Improve

Results from the newest state tests show significant gains in student achievement in local schools. 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.
Students Take Record Number of AP Exams, Enroll in More AP Courses

Students in local schools are taking record numbers of Advanced Placement college-level exams. The significant increase comes after concerted efforts to boost access to AP courses and tests.

The school district is providing students greater access to AP exams by covering much of the cost for families. AP exams usually cost $92 each, but students here are paying only $5 per exam for an unlimited number of exams. Funding to cover exam costs is made possible through the Local Control and Accountability Plan, which allocates $1.85 million toward this effort. The percentage of 11th and 12th graders enrolled in one or more AP courses has increased steadily in recent years. Last year, 46 percent of these students enrolled in AP coursework, up 12 percentage points since 2013-14.

More Students Meet CSU and UC Requirements

The percentage of students meeting the “A-G” entrance requirements for the California State University and University of California systems continues to increase. While students who do not meet these requirements can still attend other colleges and universities, including community colleges, LBUSD has made a concerted effort to improve A-G completion rates. A-G completion rose 4 percent over last year, with students of color closing achievement gaps by significant margins. African American students closed the A-G achievement gap by 7 percent; Hispanic students by 8 percent; and Pacific Islander students by 12 percent.

| LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS |
**LBUSD Graduates Earned $94 Million in Scholarships**

The Class of 2017 in the Long Beach Unified School District earned $94.4 million in scholarships and grants. The total is a five-fold increase since a decade ago.

**CSULB Enrollment Up**

More than 800 Long Beach Unified School District graduates enrolled as freshmen at Cal State Long Beach last year, up 56 percent since the start of the Long Beach College Promise Initiative nearly 10 years ago. The Promise is a partnership with CSULB, Long Beach City College and the City of Long Beach to prepare more students for success in college and careers. **This initiative includes a free first year at LBCC for graduates of LBUSD.**

**More Than 40 Career Pathways Offered**

The school district offers more than 40 career-themed pathways at high schools, which use the proven Linked Learning approach combining college-focused academics, work-based learning and integrated support for students. By centering high school on industry themes, learning becomes more relevant, and students graduate with skills and confidence needed to succeed in college, career and life.

**Resources Carefully Allocated to Improve Academic Progress**

LBUSD is the third largest school district in California, with more than 74,000 students. The State of California provides funding to help meet the needs of students. The school district’s LCAP includes approximately $594 million of those state funds allocated specifically toward academic improvement and closing achievement gaps. As with most organizations, the largest expenditures in LBUSD go toward personnel costs. These resources provide for thousands of classroom teachers, counselors and school staff, including Advanced Placement and pathway coordinators working in specialized programs:

- **Literacy classes in grades K-3 ($19.7 million),** which help elementary students learn how to read. This expenditure includes the cost of 146 literacy teachers.
- **College and career readiness activities ($15 million),** such as free PSAT/SAT exams, free SAT preparatory programs including Saturday prep at the major high schools, free college-level courses and college campus field trips.
- **Advanced Placement courses and exams ($3.7 million),** such as registration fees and tutorials that help students pass their tests and earn college credits. This expenditure includes 17 additional Advanced Placement teachers as part of an expansion of course sections on subjects such as AP Computer Science, AP Calculus, AP Seminar and AP Research. Eight AP coordinators and five pathway coordinators have been added to help guide students toward college and career readiness.
The Long Beach Unified School District’s tradition of excellence includes a commitment to efficiency and effectiveness in the basic operations that support teaching and learning. LBUSD teachers are highly qualified, well trained and assigned to the proper grade level and subject area. The school district works diligently to provide high quality, carefully selected textbooks, computers and other instructional materials and tools for every student. The district also is committed to providing students and staff with the best possible school facilities. All of these functions are part of the Local Control and Accountability Plan, which includes a specific goal related to these services:

• Students will receive basic services that are fundamental to academic success.

A Commitment to Training and Professional Development for Employees

The school district regularly provides training, or professional development, to help employees continually improve and perform to the best of their abilities. LBUSD is widely recognized as a leader in professional development for teachers, providing customized learning options, online tools and many other resources. More than 150 teachers here have earned National Board Certification, the highest professional distinction in teaching. The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves submitting portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises. Nearby Cal State Long Beach, which is the source of the majority of new teachers here, has partnered for years with LBUSD to help make sure first-year teachers are ready on day one.

An Investment in Technology

The school district in recent years has upgraded classroom technology to help prepare students for 21st Century careers. Every campus now has WiFi access throughout, and more than 65,000 Chromebook tablets are being used in classrooms, where the technology has been integrated into the curriculum. Half of campuses now have tablet devices, such as iPads, for every student. Computer labs also have been upgraded in recent years to support instruction and computer-based testing.
Building on Success – Campus Improvements

LBUSD is committed to providing efficient, safe and inviting schools that support excellent learning environments. To support the important work detailed in the LCAP, the Board of Education called for a local school bond election in November 2016, when voters overwhelmingly supported Measure E, which is providing funding for repairs, technology, air conditioning, and health and safety upgrades including all-weather athletic fields and swimming pools. Additional work is being completed to meet the latest seismic and accessibility standards, and schools are receiving upgrades to restrooms, roofs, fire alarms and security systems. The school district also has opened three smaller, thematic high schools in the past four years in response to public demand for an alternative to the larger, comprehensive high schools. Each of these new, smaller high schools – McBride, Sato and Browning – offers rigorous college preparatory curriculum and thematic pathways leading to high-demand, high-paying jobs.

Resources Allocated to Ensure Consistency of Basic Services

The school district’s LCAP includes nearly $86 million specifically for basic services:

- **Basic plant and maintenance services ($68.2 million)**, which ensure that all campuses are safe, clean and inviting.
- **Instructional materials and technology infrastructure ($8.6 million)**, which help students develop 21st Century skills.
- **General professional development for employees ($6.1 million)**, which is often supplemented with additional staff training for specific academic programs.
Providing a high quality education requires a team effort involving students, parents and schools. The Long Beach Unified School District regularly uses detailed surveys and other data sources to measure parent involvement, student engagement and other key aspects of the school environment. The Local Control and Accountability Plan allocates resources to address these goals:

- Schools will be safe, inviting, engaging and supportive places for students, parents and staff.
- Students will be actively engaged in their learning.

Parent Satisfaction Up, Suspensions Down

More than 94 percent of parents in the Long Beach Unified School District agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “I feel welcome to participate at this school,” a significant increase of 9 percentage points over two years.

At the same time, student suspension rates have steadily decreased. Among LBUSD students, 96 percent have no suspensions. Students here also miss far less class time than their counterparts nationally.
Grad Rates Up for 5th Straight Year
Graduation rates increased in LBUSD for the fifth year in a row, surpassing state and county rates. Students of color in Long Beach schools also outperformed their peers countywide and statewide. Seven high schools here reported graduation rates above 90 percent. Steady gains in the graduation rate are the result of a concerted effort to provide additional support to students who need extra help. Educators here analyze data by school and demographic subgroups to make sure they provide support where it’s needed most. Such analysis is a key part of the school district’s careful implementation of the LCAP. The school district also has consistently maintained high attendance rates, another key metric.

Resources Allocated to Support School Climate Improvement and Student Engagement
The school district’s LCAP includes nearly $54 million allocated specifically toward parent involvement, student engagement and school climate improvement efforts:

- Nurses, psychologists, community workers and other support staff ($38.7 million), all of whom help students to have positive learning experiences.

- Academic programs that help students to get ahead in their classes and provide leadership opportunities ($2.4 million), such as summer bridge courses and the Male and Female Leadership Academies.

- General parent engagement activities ($353,187), which are often supplemented with additional family support services that address specific student needs.
Family Resources to Support Academic Achievement

Kindergarten Festivals, Education Celebration and High School Choice Summit
LBUSD provides highly popular Saturday events to assist with transitioning to each level of the school system. Transitioning students and their families enjoy workshops and learn about school programs.

ParentVUE
ParentVUE is a website that allows parents to view their child’s current and historical information, including daily attendance, grades, report cards, test scores, discipline, graduation status, college preparation and more. It is also a one-stop location for links to other parent services including School Loop and MySchoolBucks (school meal accounts). With one simple activation, parents can view information on all of their children, from elementary school to high school.

School Loop
School Loop makes it easy for you to use your home computer or mobile device to stay informed about what’s going on in your child’s classroom and throughout the school district. School Loop lets teachers post homework assignments, classroom news and reminders. Middle school and high school parents can check their child’s grades, assignments and class schedule. You’ll also receive the latest school district news.

Homework Helpline
The Long Beach Unified School District provides homework help to students who are striving for excellence and achievement. Homework Helpline consists of teachers who guide students through homework assignments via the telephone. The service is free to all Long Beach Unified students. Homework Helpline is a unique service furnishing on-demand, personal tutoring. Students can call the Homework Helpline at (562) 437-2859 Monday through Thursday between 4 and 6:30 p.m.

SAT Prep / Advanced Placement
To reduce financial barriers to college and career readiness, LBUSD covers most of the cost of Advanced Placement exam fees. While each AP test typically costs $93, the district pays $88 so that students pay only $5. The PSAT is offered for free to all 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th graders, and the SAT for free to all 11th graders (as well as to select 12th graders who need an extra opportunity). A free 38-hour SAT preparatory program is also available to 11th grade students.

Customized College Readiness Guides
High school students and their parents receive customized College Readiness Guides, which provide an overview of readiness for various California public colleges and universities. These reports also provide suggested next steps, which might include taking the SAT, using online Khan Academy SAT prep tutorials, attending college fairs, revisiting college planning and learning more about financial aid. Counselors, college advisors and other school staff are available to discuss the reports in detail.
Community Resources to Support Academic Achievement

Long Beach Public Library

LearningExpress
With your Long Beach Public Library card you can get all the practice you need. LearningExpress Library offers practice sets for:

**Elementary:**
- Math, from numbers to measurement and data
- Language Arts, from reading to writing and language
- Learning plans to strengthen your skills

**Middle School:**
- Subjects from Algebra to Geography and History
- High school entrance exams like SSAT
- Writing and language tutorials

**High School:**
- Subjects from Biology to U.S. History
- ACT, SAT and AP exams
- College placement exams

To access LearningExpress online:
Go to www.lbpl.org
Click on Databases (on the left)
Scroll down and click on LearningExpress Library
Register and/or Login

Brainfuse

**Elementary:**
- Live online tutoring
- Create interactive quizzes and flashcards
- Practice tests for Math, Reading & Writing, from grades 3 to 5

**Middle School:**
- Live online tutoring (including Algebra)
- 24-hour writing lab
- Create interactive quizzes and flashcards
- Practice tests for English, Math, Science and Social Studies

**High School:**
- Live online tutoring
- 24-hour writing lab
- Create interactive quizzes and flashcards
- SAT, ACT and AP exam practice

To access Brainfuse online:
Go to www.lbpl.org
Click on Databases (on the left)
Scroll down and click on Brainfuse Help Now
Enter your library card number

Technology: Free Resources

**Khan Academy**
LBUSD encourages students to link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts so that they can have access to the Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy. This free, personalized resource includes video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length exams and test-taking tips and strategies.

**ST Math**
ST Math is an online instructional program that uses a visual approach with games to build a deep conceptual understanding of math and strengthen problem-solving skills. This technology allows a more diverse range of students to achieve success.

**Type to Learn**
Type to Learn is a computer program that helps students learn proper keyboarding techniques. By developing these skills, students can better navigate the Smarter Balanced computer adaptive online assessments.

LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS
The following resources are available at www.lbschools.net.

**Academic Resources**
- Go to English/Language Arts in A-Z index, then Family Resources.
- Go to Mathematics in A-Z index, then Family Resources.
- Go to Test Schedules in A-Z index.

**Family Resources**
- Go to “Parents” for access to ParentVUE log in, Parent University, School Calendars, Parent Guidelines, Meal Menus and more.
- Go to “Students” for access to StudentVUE log in, Homework Help, Transcripts and more.

**Community Resources**
- Go to Community Resource Guide in A-Z index for community agencies and organizations.
- Go to “Parent University” and then Online Resources and Useful Links.