API Report Shows Gains In School Rankings

The district’s schools have shown strong gains in the 2002 Based Academic Performance Index (API) report, particularly in the elementary grades, according to figures that have been released by the state of California. The API measures the academic performance and progress of schools.

Elementary school rankings in the LAUSD increased by 50 percent from last year; middle schools rose 10.7 percent and high schools climbed 8 percent. The results are particularly impressive because the tests that are now used to compute schools’ API changed this year. The new baseline places more emphasis on stringent California-specific tests than the standardized national tests.

“These results prove that our students are being taught what they need to be taught and they are learning at unprecedented levels,” said School Superintendent Roy Romer. “We have already shown improvement in elementary grades and we have now begun to show improvements at the middle and high school levels.”

The API is a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000. The 2002 Base API establishes this year’s baseline for a school’s academic performance and sets an annual target for growth. The state has set 800 as the API score that schools should strive to meet.

This year, four more schools met that goal, with a total of 36 elementary schools achieving at, or above, the state standards. The four new schools meeting the goal this year are Germain, Haynes and Justice elementary schools, and Vintage Science Magnet, all located in Local District A in the north and west Valley.

This year, 80 percent of the API for elementary and middle schools rests on the California Standards Tests (CST), while nearly 90 percent of the API for high schools rests on the standards tests and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The remainder of the weight continues to be placed on the national, standardized norm-referenced Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (Stanford 9).

Over the next few years, the API will add more performance indicators including standards-based science tests and the California Alternate Performance Assessment.

Clean Bathroom Initiative Launched

The district has unveiled the Clean Restroom Initiative that ensures middle and senior high school students have access to clean, functioning restrooms. The program includes regular restroom inspections and repair schedules, and the addition of restroom attendants and custodial personnel at every middle and senior high school in the district. The cost of hiring restroom attendants and custodians is approximately $11 million, which is drawn from the district’s General Fund. In addition, the initiative details the location and student access to school restrooms.

The six-point program was announced by School Superintendent Roy Romer on February 12 and went into effect immediately at the LAUSD’s 125 middle and senior high schools. The program seeks to provide long-term improvement of student restrooms at secondary schools and includes components to involve students and parents whose help is sought in preventing vandalism.

Students, district employees and parents are urged to report needed repairs to the District’s “Clean Restroom Hotline” at 800-495-1191.

For details on the six-point Clean Restroom Initiative, go to: www.lausd.k12.ca.us/pdf/Bathrooms.pdf. Adobe Acrobat is required.

District Intern Program Expanded

The District Intern Program (DIP), a tuition-free credentialing program that provides recent college graduates and career changers with an opportunity to earn a Professional Clear California teaching credential, is being expanded. The expansion seeks to increase the number of credentialed teachers in the district and meet the federal standards established by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The NCLB Act requires that teachers employed after the July 1, 2002 school year must be highly qualified. This includes teachers who are credentialed or who meet subject matter competency and are enrolled in an intern program.

“We have many very outstanding teachers working in our schools, but like so many urban districts, we are in greatest need of secondary teachers in specific subject matter such as math and science,” said Roy Romer, School Superintendent. “These people are most likely to be found in the working world, ready to make a transition to a more rewarding profession.”

This year, approximately 1,000 teachers are enrolled in the District Intern Program with the expansion to 1,800 slots expected to nearly double the program’s capacity. More than 7,300 teachers have earned their Professional Clear California credential through the program since its inception in 1974.

The District Intern Program offers certificates in Elementary/Middle School Core (Grades K-6), Elementary Bilingual (Spanish) and Secondary (Grades 7-12) single subjects such as English, Mathematics, Biology, Geosciences, Physical Science and Chemistry.

To learn more about the District Intern Program, visit www.teachinla.com.

Change Policy Effective July 1

Pursuant to a District/UTLA agreement, effective July 1, 2003, schools may change from their present school calendar and begin implementation of a different school calendar.

Staff members at current multi-track, year-round schools will be paid on a “12thly” basis instead of the present “13thly” basis if their school changes to the single-track calendar beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Larry Carletta at (213) 291-6414.

LAUSD Mission Statement: The teachers, administrators and staff of the Los Angeles Unified School District believe in the equal worth and dignity of all students and are committed to educate all students to their maximum potential.
The district's Academic Decathlon champions from Taft High School will lead a delegation of students from eight additional high schools in the LAUSD, which are all headed to Modesto, California to compete in the state Academic Decathlon competition on March 7-9.

Taft High School won the district's 2003 Academic Decathlon, scoring 46,694.9 out of 60,000 possible points. Members of Taft's championship team are: Erfun Geula, James Yoo, Aaron Siani, Veronika Heckova, Elizabeth Dunn, Faisal Khan, Ryan Mc Bride, Richard Kwak, and Jesse Gomez. Their coach is Arthur Berchin.

Joining them for the California competition are Marshall, El Camino Real, Los Angeles, North Hollywood, Reseda, Palisades Charter, Venice and San Pedro high schools, which were all extended “wild card” invitations to the state competition, which allows eight wild card invitations statewide based upon the scores in the regional competition. The LAUSD earned all eight invitations.

“We knew going into this competition that we had a lot of strong teams. This just bears it out,” said Cliff Ker, coordinator of the district’s Academic Decathlon. “It’s not just the teams going, but all of our teams did a fantastic job this year. The level of competition is very high here and this is one of the top regional competitions in the nation.”

Winners were announced February 6 at an award’s banquet held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Marshall HS took second place with 45,972.7 points and El Camino Real HS earned third place with 45,867.5 points. Los Angeles HS won the Super Quiz event.

The winner of the state Academic Decathlon will go on to the U.S. Academic Decathlon slated April 24-26 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

The district has broken ground to begin construction on Huntington Park Elementary School #3, an 882-student elementary school located in Huntington Park.

The 4.03-acre school will boast 29-classrooms, a library, multi-purpose room, food service, lunch shelter, playground facilities and administrative offices. Its estimated completion date is Summer 2005.

Joining students, parents and community supporters at the February 27 groundbreaking were Ric Loya, Huntington Park Mayor; David Tokofsky, LAUSD Board of Education member; Roy Romer, Superintendent of Schools; Dale Vigil, Local District J Superintendent; and other local officials.

“It’s been a long journey, but the vision of another new school for this community is finally turning into reality,” said Romer. “This new school will give students the opportunity to prepare for the futures they deserve.”

The new school is part of the district’s effort to reduce overcrowding at schools throughout the LAUSD. A total of 80 new schools will be built by the district and 79 other campuses will undergo expansions. Construction of Huntington Park Elementary School #3 will help relieve overcrowding at Middleton and Miles elementary schools.

**Student Theatre Festival Scheduled**

The district’s Arts Education Branch will hold its fourth annual Student Theatre Festival, May 3 and May 10, at the Actors’ Gang Theatre in Hollywood. The event, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., is being done in conjunction with a salary point class for K-12 teachers.

This year’s festival’s theme will be student written Original Works, which will be produced in partnership with the Playwrights in the Schools program. Students will perform scenes from scripts of their own or by other students.

Workshops will be held to prepare teachers to teach dramatic development and playwriting using improvisation and writing strategies. To obtain a registration form, call Robin Lithgow, Theatre Adviser, at (213) 241-2484 or email: Robin.lithgow@lausd.net.

**Teacher Retention (Tax) Credit Suspended**

The Teacher Retention Credit is suspended for tax year 2002, reports the district’s Certificated Credentials and Contract Services. In addition, there are no carryover provisions for this credit. Website information can be obtained at [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)
People

Edgar Z. Seal, a long time educator who most recently served as a private education consultant, is serving as interim superintendent for Local District K, following the departure of Richard A. Vladovic, who accepted the position of Superintendent of the West Covina Unified School District in January.

Seal is filling the vacancy left by Vladovic until a successor is named and will not serve on a permanent basis. Seal will oversee operations in Local District K, which represents 72 elementary, middle and senior high schools stretching from Gardena to San Pedro. Meanwhile, a nationwide search is being conducted for a permanent successor to head Local District K.

Prior to his departure, Vladovic praised the achievements of his local district for building on the foundation of its previous successes by implementing significant reform in the critical areas of professional development, reading and math achievement. These reforms, coupled with overall accountability at all levels, have allowed children in Local District K to accelerate their achievement in unprecedented ways.

He also praised several schools recognized at the state and national level, more than 70 National Board Certified Teachers, outstanding arts programs that bring professional in every genre to the classroom, and the support, trust and goodwill of parents and the community.

Timothy Buresh is Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the LAUSD and is in charge of overseeing the business operations of the district, which require further overhauling to streamline the contracting process, increase efficiency in accounts payable and expand technology in key areas such as position control and personnel.

Buresh also will manage implementation of Measure K, the $3.35 billion bond that will result in the construction of 80 new schools and 79 school expansions. In addition, he will work closely with the newly-strengthened Bond Oversight Committee.

Buresh is recognized nationally for his superior abilities in corporate management and in handling large institutional capital projects. Most recently, he served as director of Construction and Engineering for the West Covina Unified School District in January.

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CalSTRS Workshops Slated for March

California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) pre-retirement workshops are scheduled in March. All CalSTRS members are encouraged to attend a pre-retirement workshop at least three times during their career in order to plan for retirement security: early in their career, just prior to age 50 and one year prior to retirement.

Information will be provided regarding the calculation of retirement allowance, available options, required forms, and district requirements necessary to establish certain benefits upon retirement. Time will be provided at the end of the workshop presentation for questions and answers.

The workshops are individual meetings (not a series) and, although reservations are not required, space may be limited at certain locations. All workshops are scheduled from 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Below are times and locations:

- March 5 Bradley Environmental Science/Humanities (library)
- March 12 Broad Ave. School (auditorium)
- March 13 Polytechnic Sr. High School (cafeteria)
- March 19 Sheridan St. School (library)

Blood Drive Slated March 5

Do you care enough to help? You’re invited to join the LAUSD Lifesaving Team! Become a member of the LAUSD Lifesaving Team, made up of individuals committed to helping supply local hospitals with lifesaving blood.

The LAUSD Central Office blood drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5. If you’re interested in helping your community and being a part of the lifesaving team, contact Bob Meier at Bob.Meier@lausd.net.

Employee Recreation

Cellular Phone Offers
Verizon Wireless
For more information, go to:
http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2b/LAUSDemp1 or call (213) 700-6789

Employee Discount Tickets
California Adventure Park, Disneyland, Knott’s Berry Farm, Legoland, Long Beach Aquarium, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Sea World and Universal Studios Hollywood

AMC/Pacific/Mann Theater Tickets: $5 each
Limit 10 per person. Tickets available at two locations:
600 E. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles
(213) 743-3679
5607 Capistrano Ave., Room 26, Woodland Hills
(818) 904-2084
Office hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Cash, cashiers checks or postal money orders are accepted, payable to: Auxiliary Services Trust Fund. NO PERSONAL CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS. All sales are final. NO refunds or exchanges. MAIL ORDERS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED.

Calendar Of Events

March

5
LAUSD Central Office Blood Drive
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

6
Parent Resource Network Meeting
“An IEP Workshop”
701 W. Cesar Chavez Ave.
Auditorium
Downtown L.A.
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
To register, call 1-800-933-8133
Seating is limited. No child care provided.

11
L.A. Board of Education Meeting
333 S. Beaudry Ave.
Downtown L.A.
Board Room (1st Floor)
1 p.m.

25
L.A. Board of Education Meeting
333 S. Beaudry Ave.
Downtown L.A.
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31
Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

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Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

Local District A
Superintendent: Debbie Leidner
8550 Balboa Blvd., Suite 150
Northridge, CA. 91325
(818) 256-2800 • Fax: (818) 894-6506
www.lausd.k12.ca.us/district_a/

Local District A literacy teams made up of coaches, cadre members and administrators at the secondary schools are working together to deepen students’ content knowledge skills in social studies, science, mathematics and language arts.

The coaches assist cadre members in learning effective content literacy strategies and support ongoing professional development needs at the school site. Cadre members are responsible for working within their discipline and facilitate learning in their own departments.

This year’s goal is to strengthen the alignment of instruction to the State Content Standards and to create an instructional model that embeds content literacy strategies that include scaffolding vocabulary, integrating reading strategies, activating prior knowledge and utilizing primary and secondary materials in understanding the content.

District B
Superintendent: Judy Burton
5200 Lankershim Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA. 91601
(818) 755-5300 • Fax: (818) 755-2010
www.lausd.k12.ca.us/district_b/

Local District B has launched a commitment to train nearly 700 elementary teachers and 240 grades 7-9 secondary teachers to improve student achievement in writing. A three-year plan has been created to provide direct professional development on writing for all teachers, literacy coaches, assistant principals and principals from each elementary and secondary school.

The objective is two-fold: to provide professional development on writing instructional strategies to improve student achievement in writing and to provide professional development on writing to learn strategies across the core content areas.

Phase one of the elementary core includes all teachers in grades 3 and 4. The two-day elementary professional development is entitled “Write Traits Workshop” and focuses on the 6 traits of writing. This workshop is structured around the concept that students who learn to assess writing thoughtfully will become stronger writers.

As a follow up to this two-day training, the Local District B Elementary Literacy team and Open Court Reading (OCR) professionals will work with literacy coaches to apply the 6 Traits strategies to the OCR writing instruction and six-week writing assessment. Teachers then learn to assess many forms of writing across the 6 Traits: Ideas and Detail (support), Organizational Structure, voice and tone, word choice and phrasing, sentence structure and fluency, and conventions and presentation.

Secondary math teachers from Local District B recently took part in the first Advanced Placement Vertical Math Team Training.

Nearly 30 secondary math teachers and coaches participated. Math teachers and coaches discussed the studied strategies and opportunities to learn from each other about how best to prepare students for academic rigor.

Teachers and coaches from middle and high school feeder schools were able to collaborate and learn from each other on strategies for teaching math. The objectives of the team training were for participants to walk away seeking more opportunities to communicate with feeder schools and to build on existing knowledge.

In other news, Local District B has committed to training nearly 700 elementary school teachers and 240 secondary teachers in grades 7 and 9 to improve student writing.

District B’s three-year plan is to provide direct professional development on writing for all teachers, literacy coaches, assistant principals and principals from each elementary and secondary school.

District C
Superintendent: Robert Collins
6621 Balboa Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA. 91406
(818) 654-3600 • Fax: (818) 881-6728
www.lausd.k12.ca.us/district_c/

The vision for Local District C is to ensure that every parent is treated as a “most valued customer” whenever they visit a school. To achieve this goal, Local District C, in partnership with Hilton Hotels Corporation, has launched a first of its kind customer service training program in the spring. The cadre will be responsible for ongoing training to ensure that every parent is provided with exceptional service everyday.

Appreciation is extended to Hal Kwalwasser, LAUSD General Counsel; and Diane Pappas, assistant General Counsel, for their assistance in making this partnership a reality. Key Local District C staff who will coordinate the project are Francine Eisenrod and Sue Spears, Instructional Services Administrators, and Kristi Thomas, Administrative Assistant.

District D
Superintendent: Carol Dodd
3000 S. Robertson Blvd., Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA. 90034
(310) 253-7100 • Fax (310) 842-9170
www.lausd.k12.ca.us/district_d/

A viable and productive partnership between Local District D and UCLA has been established, leading to the 8th annual UCLA “I’m Going to College” Health and Human Services Fair. The annual fair provides an atmosphere of exploration, information, recreation and education for students and their families.

Approximately 10,000 students and their parents traveled on buses and in private automobiles to the Westwood campus to spend the day embarking on new beginnings and future planning for educational advancement. For some of the participating families, it was their first experience on a college campus.

The visit calmed some fears and answered many questions as families toured the campus with a UCLA student volunteer. All the Local District D students learned the Bruin cheer and were invited to visit the Local District D Health and Human Services Fair.

The Health and Human Services Fair emphasizes that good health is essential to establishing and maintaining a successful and productive educational experience. More than 70 agencies were represented including the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, the Los Angeles Fire and Police departments, the UCLA Venice Dental Clinic, Pierce College and others.

The day ended with a UCLA versus USC women’s basketball game in Pauley Pavilion, which all of the students and families were invited to attend. Many students got in the spirit of the day with UCLA face painted art and the Bruin cheer. UCLA defeated USC, which provided an exciting end to a successful day.
Fall Parent conference was held and featured several workshops aimed at preparing parents and their children to face the challenges ahead in school. Many Local District E presenters offered workshops that covered a variety of topics including literacy and math, special education, school-home communications, and gifted and talented education. Various opportunities for Adult Education were also presented.

Parents are a key component in every child’s success and the goal of the conference was to provide them with the best tools possible to assist parents in building their children’s educational framework.

In addition to the workshops, students from the Mount Vernon Middle School Fife and Drum Corp opened the conference by leading participants in the Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. The success of programs such as this one is important in strengthening the bond between home and school.

Local District E officials look forward to future opportunities to help schools and parents work together to attain excellence for all children.

District F
Superintendent: Richard Alonzo
2151 N. Soto Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90032
(323) 224-3100 • Fax (323) 222-5702
www.lausd.k12.ca.us/district_f/


Schools hosting the educators planned classroom visits and provided them with an opportunity to share best practices. Discussions on comparative approaches to improving student achievement helped both visiting and hosting teachers. Ultimately, both groups of teachers used the visit as an opportunity to reflect on how their practices could be modified to raise standards and increase the range of strategies and techniques used for teaching and learning.

“We are very excited to be part of this global learning project and we welcome the educators from London to Local District F,” said Richard A. Alonzo, Superintendent of Local District F. “As educators in partnership, we can connect both communities by building a bridge of cultural respect and appreciation.”

In addition to the school visits, a reception was held at the Natural Museum of History, where an art exhibit titled “Masks: The World In Me” featured a collection of student artwork from Local District F.

Social Inclusion and Citizenship

The DELTA (Design for Excellence Linking Teaching and Achievement) Center at 52nd Street School received a $500,000 grant from Washington Mutual to further its teacher training efforts.

Antonio Manning, vice president of Community Relations for Washington Mutual Bank, announced the half million dollar grant while visiting the DELTA Center with Susan Way-Smith, the president and CEO of Los Angeles Educational Partnership (LEAP). “Washington Mutual believes that an investment in teaching is an investment in our children and the future,” Manning said. The grant will help continue the work of the center.

The DELTA center offers pre-service credentialing programs for hard to staff schools and a coaching model for professional development for teachers. Teachers in the program matriculate in one-third the time of traditional emergency credential programs.

Since its inception five years ago, the 52nd Street School DELTA Center, collaborating with universities, has graduated more than 70 teachers. The program also provides an opportunity for non-credentialed teachers to observe experienced teachers and ask questions on how the concepts they are learning in university coursework can be applied to their own classrooms.

From left, Pat Bowman, coordinator of Professional Development; Renee Jackson, superintendent of Local District G; Dale Petrusil, director of instruction, Local District G; and teacher participants of DELTA program.
Last October, more than 100 students returned to school with their parents for 93rd Street School’s First Annual Family Math Night. The event, entitled “Fall Into Math,” was spearheaded by Math Coach Janice Shestokes. Teachers from the school, as well as student teachers from Pepperdine University, assisted her that evening.

Families played standards-based math games and received math literature as they visited eight activity centers themed to the fall season. Each family left with a packet that included math games and activities.

Principal Marcella Keyes said, “This is definitely a positive and rewarding effort towards increasing parent involvement at 93rd Street School. The teachers took the initiative in showing parents how to become involved in their children’s education in a fun and non-threatening way. I am so proud of my staff, students and parents. We have a real home-school family connection going on at 93rd Street School.”

Due to the success of “Fall Into Math,” a “Spring Into Math” event is being planned, as well as additional monthly family outreach activities in literacy, science and technology.

Last summer, Larry Ainsworth of Doug Reeves’ Center for Performance Assessment, “unwrapped” the Standards for Local District K administrators at the Principals Institute in Palm Spring. At that time he revealed the “Power Standards” hidden within.

Now, Center for Performance Assessment trainer Michelle LePatner continues this powerful brand of professional development with members of the Content Literacy Cadres as they implement the district-wide plan for improved secondary literacy.

In keeping with the LAUSD plan, each secondary school in Local District K has a Content Literacy Cadre made up of volunteer teachers from each discipline who are responsible for improving the technical literacy of the lowest performing students while simultaneously reducing the rate of illiteracy and illiteracy.

Content Cadre members study, collaborate and strategize with each other and administrators as they envision and deliver professional development to the faculty at their school.

Monthly meetings with Local District K staff and cadres from other schools provide a dynamic atmosphere where techniques, ideas, triumphs and challenges are exchanged in an open, supportive environment. Our Content Literacy Cadres are really Linking Literacy with Life!