

Los Angeles Unified School District
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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Los Angeles Unified School District to be Inducted into Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise Hall Of Fame

Los Angeles (Sept. 11, 2008)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste has selected the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for induction into the WasteWise Hall of Fame for its continued environmental accomplishments over five years in waste reduction and recycling programs.

"The District's commitment to recycling helps educate children on the need to preserve our natural resources and reduce the environmental problems associated with disposal of wastes in landfills," said LAUSD Superintendent David L. Brewer III.

District officials will receive the award during the 2008 WasteWise & National Partnership for Environmental Priorities Conference, Oct. 29-30, in Arlington, VA, designed to promote waste reduction and recycling programs nationally.

LAUSD was previously recognized for its programs by winning the EPA WasteWise School District Partner of the Year Award six times between 2001 and 2006. With its induction into the WasteWise Hall of Fame, the District will no longer be eligible for the annual district partner award, giving other school districts the opportunity to be recognized.

"The effort of every student and District employee contributed toward the District becoming one of the best recycling programs in the nation and the Office of Environmental Health & Safety is honored to accept this award on behalf of the District," said Yi Hwa Kim, Interim Director of the Office of Environmental Health & Safety.

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“In addition, our collaboration with the City of Los Angeles in their Blue Bin Recycling Program has increased participation rates among schools. The City has been very instrumental in providing educational programs to our students,” Kim said.

The comprehensive waste reduction and recycling programs at the LAUSD include paper, cardboard, yard clippings, aluminum cans, plastic and glass containers, and asphalt and other construction demolition debris. The District has also instituted an “Offer Versus Serve” program in school cafeterias, where students can choose the food items they intend to eat. This program has reduced the amount of food wasted and lowered the cost of disposing food waste by more than \$600,000 annually.

Through LAUSD’s waste prevention programs, more than 50 percent of waste from schools and offices is diverted from landfills, no small feat for a school system with more than one million K-12 and adult school students, and almost 84,000 employees. It is estimated that the total disposal cost savings from recycling and waste prevention in 2007 was \$2.3 million.

About the Los Angeles Unified School District

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is the second largest school district in the United States with more than 694,000 students in Los Angeles and neighboring communities. Encompassing 710 square miles, the LAUSD is geographically divided into eight Local Districts, oversees 1,190 schools and centers, and employs almost 84,000 people. The culturally diverse district, in which 90 languages are spoken, is governed by the seven-member Los Angeles Board of Education and manages an annual budget of nearly \$14 billion.

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