

A Year Like No Other



2021 Annual Report ▶

A Year Like No Other

In the 136-year history of the Long Beach Unified School District, the 2020–21 school year will be remembered as one of the most tumultuous and extraordinary. We entered the fall semester with all campuses closed due to the global coronavirus pandemic. To keep learning alive, we rapidly deployed a new Learning Management System called Canvas, along with related professional development for thousands of teachers, allowing instruction to continue in the virtual setting. Conditions were far from ideal, yet students, parents and teachers persevered in the distance learning environment for more than a year, supported by non-teaching staff who provided social emotional support, millions of meals to go, and tens of thousands of computer tablets and other technology to struggling families. Schools had closed their campuses back in March of 2020. Reopening for in-person learning gradually began a year later, in March of 2021. I was honored and humbled to become superintendent about five months into our school closures, on Aug. 1, 2020.

Prior to the pandemic, this school district had seen significant growth in student performance based on key indicators such as high school readiness, graduation rates and completion rates for A-G college entrance requirements, including for all racial/ethnic groups. Graduation rates here surpassed those of the state and Los Angeles County, despite the fact that 63 percent of our students come from socioeconomically disadvantaged households. During the school closures, we strove to maintain our focus on our strategic goals and our hard-fought progress. We sustained relatively high levels of student attendance. Learning continued. Yet the pandemic also magnified societal inequities, disproportionately affecting already disadvantaged populations, including people of color. Our communities and our school system also were impacted by our nation's 2020 reckoning with long-simmering, incendiary issues of racism and social justice. Amid the contagion and the strife, we pressed forward with renewed resolve to engage our diverse communities in necessary conversations about equity and systemic racism, laying the groundwork for a number of equity and excellence initiatives – including hiring efforts – that will continue in the months and years ahead. The pandemic and our societal reckoning created a crucible that helped us to forge more meaningful and authentic relationships with many of our stakeholders.

Our school district is now well positioned to begin a new era of progress for every student in our care. To everyone who has supported our schools during this immensely challenging time, I extend my deepest gratitude, and I invite you to continue on our collective journey together with great hope for our nearly 70,000 students.

Warmly,



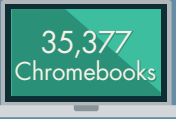
Jill A. Baker, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools



Distributed During Campus Closures



6.1 million Meals



35,377 Chromebooks



6,477 Hotspots



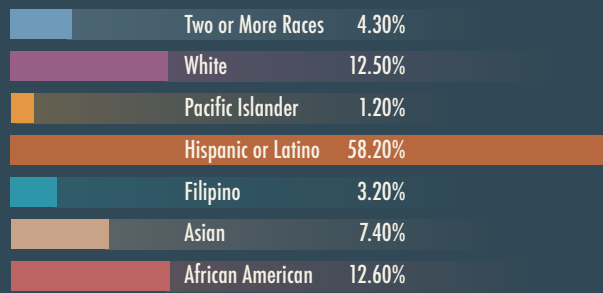
62 Community Updates

14 Schools Upgraded

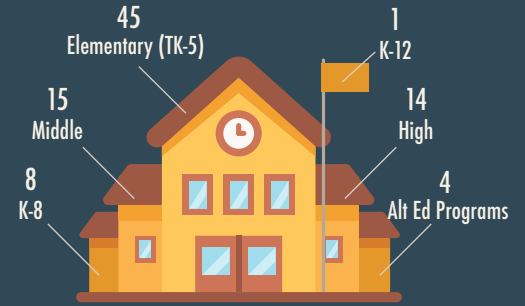


Including Air Conditioning/
New Construction

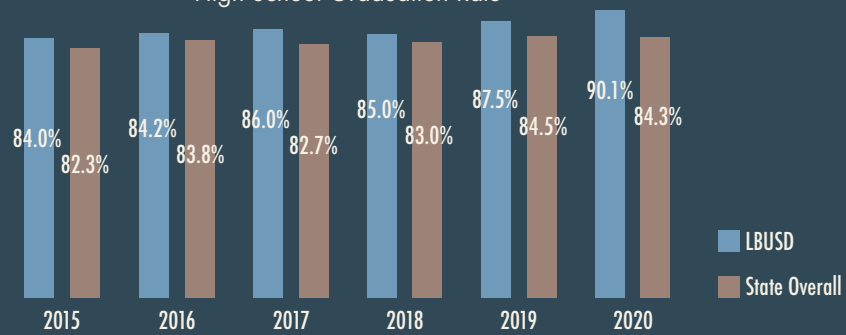
LBUSD Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



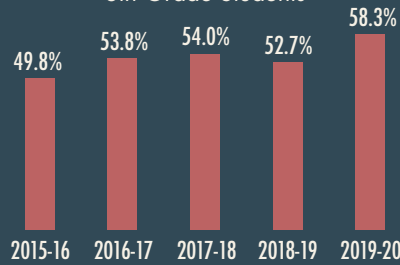
LBUSD Schools



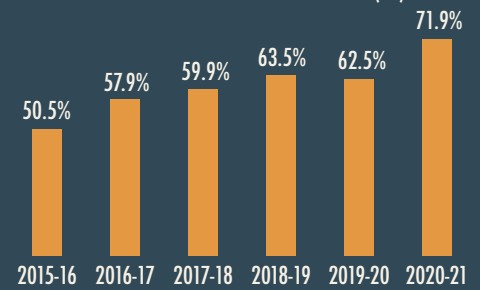
High School Graduation Rate



Percent of High School Ready 8th Grade Students



Accelerated Math 6 Placement (%)

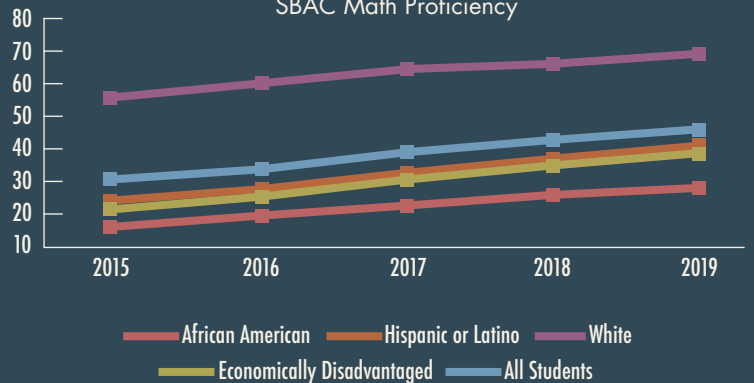


A-G Completion Rate

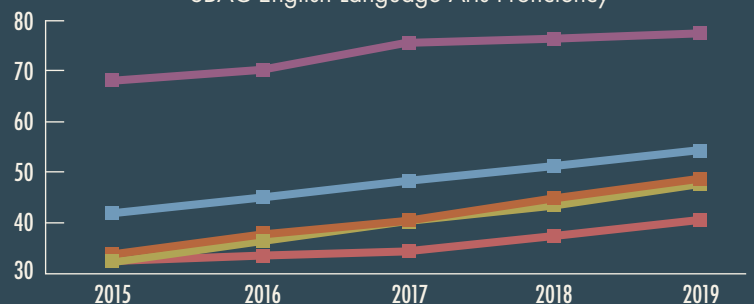
DEMOGRAPHIC	2017	2018	2019	2020
African American	42.8%	46.6%	47.0%	50.5%
Hispanic or Latino	45.0%	50.0%	51.6%	53.0%
White	67.6%	73.0%	74.4%	77.8%
Pacific Islander	40.8%	46.7%	54.1%	46.8%
Asian	71.3%	73.2%	75.2%	74.9%
Filipino	72.0%	72.8%	80.7%	81.4%
LBUSD Rate	51.4%	56.6%	58.5%	59.8%
State Rate	49.9%	49.9%	50.5%	50.9%

DEMOGRAPHIC	2017	2018	2019	2020
English Learners	20.0%	24.0%	26.5%	27.2%
Foster Youth	28.8%	25.8%	27.9%	40.9%
Students with Disabilities	14.9%	17.6%	20.6%	27.2%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	44.8%	50.2%	51.4%	52.9%
LBUSD Rate	51.4%	56.6%	58.5%	59.8%
State Rate	49.9%	49.9%	50.5%	50.9%

SBAC Math Proficiency



SBAC English Language Arts Proficiency



A Commitment to Excellence and Equity

Equity Leadership Team

In anticipation of formalizing a policy on equity, the LBUSD Board of Education directed staff to develop a district equity leadership team consisting of students and other stakeholders including parents, employees and community partners. This equity leadership team has convened multiple times and will make recommendations for policy, practices, funding and future initiatives.

Percent of Credentialed New Hires	2019-20	2020-21
African American	3%	13%
Hispanic or Latino	27%	36%

Superintendent’s Student Advisory Committee

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Committee celebrated its inaugural year, initiated by LBUSD Superintendent Baker as a way to amplify student voices and further students’ partnership with the school district. The committee began with 23 juniors and seniors from across the school district, creating a structure for two-way communication among adults and students. With student members representing every LBUSD high school, the committee convenes to talk with one another, the superintendent and adult stakeholders to generate ideas for improving structures and systems.



Recognized Results

LBUSD added to a growing list of accolades over the past year, with 13 high schools ranked among America’s best by U.S. News and World Report, and three more schools earning the prestigious California Distinguished School Award. Thirty schools here made the 2019-20 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll for academic excellence and reducing achievement gaps among student populations. The annual list is sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence. California’s State Superintendent of Public Instruction designated LBUSD as a model of attendance improvement, and the New York Times noted that Long Beach was the largest district in California to begin safely offering in-person instruction to elementary students despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.



Board of Education

Diana Craighead, President • Megan Kerr, Vice President
 Juan Benitez, Ph.D., Member • Erik Miller, Member • Douglas Otto, Member

 **LONG BEACH**
 UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.lbschools.net

