

## Los Angeles Unified School District

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# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

August 15, 2007

#07/08-031

## **LAUSD ANNOUNCES 2007 STAR RESULTS**

*Elementary School Students Continue to Make Gains in Academic Improvements*

Los Angeles—Elementary school test scores in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) continue to steadily improve in English Language Arts, mathematics and science, while the academic performance of middle and senior high school students remains mixed, according to 2007 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) results released today by the California Department of Education.

This year's results reflect a familiar trend of academic growth and test score increases at the elementary grade levels in the LAUSD. At the same time, students at the secondary level continue to struggle despite minor improvements.

"I am pleased to see that the performance of our elementary school students continues to improve," said Superintendent David L. Brewer III. "However, this report offers another indicator of the need for improvement in the areas the Board and I have already identified as priorities." Their attention, he explained, will be focused on improving secondary student achievement, especially for middle school students; reclassifying English Language learners to improve their performance in English and math, and closing the proficiency gap between white, Asian, Latino and African-American students.

"Today's STAR results, while promising for elementary schools, emphasize the need to provide quality support to our secondary schools," added Mónica García, President of the Los Angeles Board of Education. "If we are to reach our goal of 100 percent graduation, we must develop and implement innovative K-12 strategies that focus on quality instruction for all students, staff support and professional development, and a commitment of resources from LAUSD leadership."

The STAR program is designed to help measure how well students in grades 2 through 11 are achieving the California content standards. It also provides information about how well schools and school districts are meeting state and federal accountability requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Under the California Standards Tests (CST), a component of the STAR testing program, students are ranked according to five performance levels: **advanced**, **proficient**, **basic**, **below basic** and **far below basic**. The State Board of Education's goal is to have all  
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students performing at proficient or advanced levels. This goal is consistent with school growth targets for state accountability and the federal No Child Left Behind requirements.

This year's CST results show District students in grades 2 through 5 continue to increase in the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in English Language Arts, mathematics and science. Of 2,333 LAUSD seventh grade students who took the CST Algebra 1, 61 percent scored proficient or advanced.

"Overall, the results demonstrate slow, but steady, progress," said Brewer. "However, progress is not the goal. Therefore, consistent with the Board's 'Achievement Gap Proficiency Plus for All' resolution, I will establish aggressive proficiency goals with target deadlines for each of our schools and student sub-groups."

More than 516,000 students in the LAUSD were assessed with STAR tests. Those tested included English learners and students in special education programs.

"Improvements in the classroom can best be achieved with the assurance that each and every student in the District graduates from high school and is college-prepared and career-ready," said Brewer. He advocates that students undertake a rigorous and coherent curriculum taught by teachers who provide high quality instruction.

"As the test results indicate, we have to make some significant changes to reach our overall proficiency objectives," he added. "While we will continue to work very hard over the next year to ensure that the increases in achievement you see in our elementary school students continue, we will also renew our focus on improving learning and achievement for our middle and high school students."

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