

# Los Angeles Unified School District

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SUPERINTENDENT BREWER LAUNCHES BOOKS OF SUMMER CAMPAIGN**

*New Effort to Engage Families and Improve Student Achievement*

Los Angeles – Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Superintendent David L. Brewer III today announced the Books of Summer program, a summer-long campaign that encourages parents and guardians to read with their children. The Books of Summer campaign is part of Superintendent Brewer's plan, outlined during his June State of the Schools address, to transform the LAUSD so children graduate college prepared and career ready. He was joined by Los Angeles Board of Education President Marlene Canter, Board member Mónica García and former board member David Tokofsky, California Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, Chivas USA defensive player Carlos Llamosa, students, families and representatives from city and county libraries.

"Reading together helps families become more involved with their children's learning," said Superintendent Brewer. "This is simply a way to get our students motivated to continue their reading this summer and to involve their parents directly in that effort."

Students can choose from a list of books by grade level to read with their parents. Students can then submit a report on the book they read, testing how well they understood the concepts and themes of the books. The best report from an elementary school student will receive a \$500 savings bond, a \$750 savings bond for the best middle school student report and a \$1,000 bond for the best high school student report.

"I encourage all LAUSD families to participate in the Books of Summer program," said School Board President Marlene Canter. "This is a great way for parents to engage in their children's education and foster a life-long love of reading."

"Research shows that children who don't keep engaged in learning over a long school break can lose up to two months of math and reading skills," said State Superintendent Jack O'Connell. "When this happens, valuable class time in the new school year must be spent brushing up on lost skills rather than tackling new, grade-level material. It's critically important that parents encourage their children to continue learning and reading even when they are not in school."

The Books of Summer program is available to all LAUSD students including those on summer vacation and those who attend year-round schools that are in session during the

(more)

summer months.

The Books of Summer campaign partners the LAUSD with City and County of Los Angeles libraries and will provide links to the City's summer reading program. The libraries will also ensure that the books are available for families this summer.

Carlos Llamosa, defensive player for Major League Soccer's Chivas USA, urged students and families to read together this summer. "Chivas USA represents the passion of soccer, but we also support the youth and the advancement through education in the community. I feel proud to be part of this event," said Llamosa.

Chivas USA will award autographed soccer balls to the top Books of Summer winners this year. Founded in 2004, Club Deportivo Chivas USA is the sister-team of Club Deportivo Guadalajara, popularly known as 'Chivas.' Chivas USA is a member of Major League Soccer, the professional soccer league in the United States founded in 1996, after the country hosted the 1994 Fédération Internationale Football Association (FIFA) World Cup.

Superintendent Brewer's aggressive plan to transform the District is focused on five guiding principles: decision-making based on data, research and analysis; professional development for all employees; promoting innovation and change within the District; engaging parents and partnering with the community; and ensuring the physical and emotional safety of students on campus.

During his State of the School's address, Superintendent Brewer also announced the creation of a new Office of Parent and Civic Engagement to improve communications with parents and strengthen partnerships with communities. The Office of Parent and Civic Engagement brings parent, family and related community partnerships under a single umbrella to create the support network that parents and LAUSD children deserve.

For the list of recommended books, book report contest rules and more information on the Books of Summer program, go to [www.lausd.net](http://www.lausd.net) Student Resource Page.

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