

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION **REVISED** REPORT NO. 468 – 06/07

Office of the Superintendent
for Presentation to the Board of Education on June 12, 2007

**SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF BOARD RULE 1104 DAILY TIME SCHEDULES
TO INCLUDE LUNCH PERIODS.**

A. BACKGROUND

A student's ability to learn and overall wellness is directly associated with the fuels (nutrients) consumed coupled with appropriate exercise. The Board of Education has instituted policies to make sure the integrity of LAUSD student meals is not compromised by carbonated or high sugar beverages, candy, foods of minimal nutritional value, and has set some of the highest standards in the nation for sodium, fat, trans fat, whole grains content and the accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Data illustrates that there is an increase in demand for nutritious meals in LAUSD secondary schools with participation rates in the 2002-2003 school year at 17% of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) moving to 37% of ADA in 2005-2006. However, data across the country shows secondary lunch participation rates in urban school districts as high as 67%. As a result, for the Board's high nutrition standards to provide the intended benefits to all students, the students must have greater access to the lunch program in terms of shorter lunch lines, increased time to eat, and ample facilities for the number of students including sufficient seating.

Currently 96% of all secondary schools have only one 30 minute lunch period which provides less than half of the students access to a meal, based on current student populations. In December 2006, the Superintendent called for a 90-day review of the Food Services program to examine ways in which the District could increase student participation. In the assessment performed, it was strongly recommended that LAUSD expand the number of lunch periods to increase student access to meals. Without an increase in lunch periods, or extended serving times, increases in participation will only result in longer lunch lines, less actual time to eat once a meal is obtained, fewer seats available to sit and eat, and likely an increase in student management issues.

It is recognized a "one-size-fits-all" approach is not viable given the diversity throughout our school district. Therefore, it must be balanced in its implementation through a process that takes into account each school's unique circumstances and requirements for access to meals. Previous Food Services working groups with principals have proved to be effective examining how changes in policy actually get implemented, and will be an important component for this proposed Board Rule modification given the need to balance with other school site considerations.

B. PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Los Angeles Unified School District clarify existing Board Rule 1104, Daily Time Schedules, to include lunch periods. Clarity of the Superintendent's delegated authority from the Board in this area will ensure the District creates the environment in which the Board's earlier policy, "to ensure that the last child in line has no less than 20 minutes to eat," is fully enacted. The transition to adequate lunch periods, to provide every student access to a meal would begin no later than the 2008-2009 school year, with some schools able to make the transition during the 2007-2008 school year. Some schools, due to student population, seating availability, and available points of service may only need to lengthen serving time to accommodate all students and allow twenty minutes for them to eat, and some may only need to increase seating capacity at their schools. However, others for the same reasons may need multiple lunch periods.

It is proposed that an implementation plan will be developed with a working group from central office, local district administrators, and school site principals by the end of December 2007. This plan will take into account transitional items such as, schedules, supervision, student safety, bell schedules, block schedules, contractual issues, and student seating. The plan will examine how the District will increase the number of lunch periods while balancing the local instructional schedule and individual school needs.

Food Services Branch will provide additional food service staff and/or hours, as needed, when increased time or lunch periods are added. It is currently estimated that if each secondary school in the District had two lunch periods, approximately 272 staff would receive four hours or more; making the total staff moved to benefits 529 which includes the 257 staff moved to benefits by the labor optimization study (effective July, 2007).

C. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This clarification will modify Board Rule 1104 Daily Time Schedules (April 16, 1990) which currently states, "The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to prescribe, within legal limits, the daily time schedules including the starting and ending times of schools and centers."

This clarification complements previous Board policy (March 12, 1990), directing the Superintendent to 1) evaluate every school for the amount of time scheduled for lunch, and 2) upon review of the evaluation of lunch periods at all schools, that staff develop a plan for each school to ensure the last child in line has no less than 20 minutes to eat, and that the Superintendent monitor lunch schedules annually to ensure all students have adequate time to eat.

D. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Food Services Branch, as part of the Staffing Normalization study, has developed a formula for the additional serving hours needed for secondary schools as they move to multiple lunch periods. It is the Food Services Branch's goal that the costs of any additional staff hours will be offset by increased participation. If not, it may have consequences to

Food Services finances, and could require contribution from Food Services fund balance or the general fund.

Supervision during lunch periods may have some additional budget impacts, on a school by school basis. Each school has unique building layouts, and eating areas, and therefore would require an assessment on a school by school basis.

E. DESEGREGATION IMPACT

This action has been reviewed and does not require a Desegregation Impact Statement.

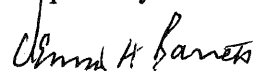
F. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That current Board Rule 1104 Daily Time Schedules (April 16, 1990), which currently states, "The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to prescribe, within legal limits, the daily time schedules including the starting and ending times of schools and centers," be modified to "The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to prescribe, within legal limits, the daily time schedules including starting and ending times and the number and scheduling of lunch periods of schools and centers."


Respectfully submitted,

DAVID L. BREWER III
Superintendent

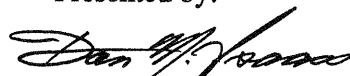
Prepared by:


DENNIS BARRETT
Director of Food Services

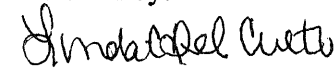
Approved by:


MICHAEL A. EUGENE
Business Manager

Presented by:


DAN M. ISAACS
Chief Operating Officer

Reviewed by:


LINDA DEL CUETO
Assistant Superintendent for Staff Relations


ROGER RASMUSSEN
Budget Director