



MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS & PLANNING, INC

**THE STATUS OF PUBLIC
EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF
LAKEWOOD**

Submitted to
Lakewood City Council

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Part 1

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the status of public education in the City of Lakewood. It is a detailed, statistical analysis of selected aspects of the public schools in Lakewood. The report concludes with the presentation of some action options--recommendations for Council consideration to improve the schools in Lakewood.

Context of the Study

In the late 1990s, the citizens of Lakewood undertook the arduous task of petitioning for a reorganization of schools in Lakewood to form a new Lakewood Unified School District. The proposal was to unify the schools in four school districts that serve the City: Long Beach USD, Bellflower USD, ABC USD, and Paramount USD. After nearly five years of hearings and studies, the California State Board of Education turned down the proposal in February, 2001.

However, community sentiment for rationalizing the delivery of educational services in Lakewood did not abate after the State Board's decision. The Lakewood City Council took the lead, initiating this project to assess the existing educational delivery system serving Lakewood and to develop courses of action for improvement of the schools.

Project and Study Objectives

The goal of the project is to determine courses of action that will result in improvements to the public school system in Lakewood. Generally, recommendations will address:

- Strategies to achieve unification of the schools in the City of Lakewood through a long-term solution and transition process. Recommendations will include options to strengthen the Lakewood community's control of the education of its youth.
- Recommendations to enhance neighborhood schools and improve the quality of education.
- Recommendations to mitigate any observed inequality in educational opportunity and to ensure the adequacy of Lakewood schools compared to schools in similar communities and to state standards.

This study was designed to develop a thorough understanding of existing conditions in the public schools of Lakewood as a baseline for proposed changes and improvements. The study was guided by the following questions.

- Within each of the four school districts, are the schools in Lakewood treated fairly compared to the schools in the district outside of Lakewood?

- Within the City of Lakewood, how do the resources and programs compare across districts?
- To what extent are Lakewood students acquiring the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are desired for all children in California and that are defined in the Academic Content Standards that have been adopted by the State Board of Education?
- Is the achievement of Lakewood students improving over time, or have the schools failed to correct deficiencies?
- To what extent does student achievement vary among schools within each of the four districts that serve Lakewood?
- To what extent does Lakewood student achievement vary between the four districts?
- To what extent are students from low-income families acquiring basic skills and meeting the Academic Content Standards?
- To what extent are students from higher-income families acquiring basic skills and meeting the Academic Content Standards?

As the work proceeded, special topics for in-depth data collection and analysis were identified. These include the availability of advanced learning opportunities for higher-achievers, the nature and scope of the Long Beach bussing program, and the equity of school facilities.

Data Sources

In order to make valid comparisons between schools and school districts, much of the data presented in this study is the standardized information collected by the California Department of Education (CDE). Data sources include the California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS), the Home Language Survey, the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) system, the Academic Performance Index (API) data base, and other standardized data bases administered by the CDE.

Information was also collected from each of the four districts that serve Lakewood. This data focused on current enrollments, school facilities, bussing, where Lakewood residents go to school, and where non-residents who go to school in Lakewood come from.

To the maximum extent possible, all data is the latest available and for the current school year (2002-03).

In addition, discussions were held with district administrators, principals, parents, and teachers. The City of Lakewood's community survey on education issues was analyzed. Demographic maps based on the 2000 Census were prepared by the GIS Analyst for the City of Lakewood. Transportation matrices from the Transportation Branch of the Long Beach USD were obtained and carefully analyzed.

Organization of the Report

Because of its importance, this report begins with a lengthy examination of student achievement in Lakewood and in the other schools of each of the four school districts. The weak spots and strong points are presented.

In Part 3, district enrollment trends, school size, socio-economic characteristics, and enrollment by residency are addressed. The Part concludes with an analysis of student population by school level, school location, and place of residency.

Next, a detailed examination of the enormous and complex Long Beach USD bussing and school choice program is presented.

Part 5 includes maps showing the population density of school sites in all four districts and the prevalence of portable and permanent classrooms.

School inputs is the subject of Part 6. It looks at staffing levels, class size, teacher characteristics, and technology.

In response to parent and teacher comments, a special effort was made to look at advanced learning opportunities in the high schools. The findings are present in Part 7.

Part 8 contains conclusions and recommendations.

Public Schools in Lakewood

Lakewood has twenty-one public schools in four districts that serve pupils in grades kindergarten through twelfth. These schools are listed below, by district, along with their grade ranges.

Public Schools in Lakewood

<u>District/School</u>	<u>Grades Enrolled</u>
<u>ABC</u>	
Aloha E.	K-6
Melbourne E.	K-6
Palms E.	K-6
Willow E.	K-6
Artesia HS	9-12
<u>Bellflower</u>	
Intensive Learning Center E.	K-8
Foster E.	K-8
Lindstrom E.	K-8
Williams E.	K-8
Mayfair MS/HS	7-12
<u>Long Beach</u>	
Cleveland E.	K-5
Gompers E.	K-5
Holmes E.	K-5
Macarthur E.	K-5
Madison E.	K-5
Monroe E.	K-8
Riley E.	K-5
Hoover MS	6-8
Lakewood HS	9-12
<u>Paramount</u>	
Lakewood E.	K-8
Paramount Alternative Academy	9-12

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