

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO  
THE LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**SUBJECT:** Expand Sustainable Schoolyards and Environmental Initiatives and Curriculum

**DATE NOTICED:** 02-12-13, 9am

**PRESENTED FOR ACTION:** 04-16-13, noon

**PRESENTED BY:** Mr. Zimmer

**MOVED/SECONDED BY:** Mr. Zimmer /  
Mr. Kayser

**MOTION:**

**RESOLUTION:** x

Whereas, Five major studies, including a 1999 study commissioned by The California Department of Education (CDE), have determined the educational efficacy of using the environment as an integrated context for learning. Students in environment-based education programs score higher than their peers across all standardized academic tests and have higher grade point averages;

Whereas; Environment-based education employs natural ecosystems as platforms to teach curriculum mandated by state standards;

Whereas, The September 25, 2007, Board-approved Preserving and Sustaining School Gardens resolution directed the Superintendent to take the following actions including, but not limited to: support the preservation of existing gardens in Los Angeles Unified School District schools that have instructional programming ties and funding support; encourage the use of school gardens as outdoor laboratories for instruction of California State standards; ensure compliance with federal, state, local and District health and safety policies; and to work with the City and County of Los Angeles and the State of California to establish and ensure ongoing financial support for school gardens;

Whereas, Less than 50 percent of District schools have school garden programs;

Whereas, There remains disproportionately fewer school gardens at Title I schools;

Whereas, Only 30 percent of school gardens in the District meet the guidelines for participation in the Network for Healthy California-LAUSD program, which provides hands on nutrition education to District students and families through classroom lessons and school gardens,

Whereas, The District is committed to promoting and attaining the most sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices in the construction, modernization, maintenance and operation of its school facilities; and

Whereas, School gardens and other sustainability initiatives are currently housed exclusively in the Facilities Services Division of the District; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District reaffirms its commitment to strive to be the most sustainable and environmentally-friendly large urban school district in the country by placing a high priority focus on establishing school gardens and greening projects and affirming their use for standards-based instruction; and, be it finally

**SUBJECT:** Expand Sustainable Schoolyards and Environmental Initiatives and Curriculum

Resolved, That the Board directs the Superintendent to establish an Instructional Schoolyards Advisory Task Force comprised of community members, environmental and sustainable landscape experts, experts in habitat restoration and District staff from Instruction, Facilities, and Maintenance and Operations. The Task Force is charged with developing goals and a comprehensive plan to bring District land management practices to meet or exceed sustainability guidelines within city, county and statewide initiatives. The Task Force will promote the design of educational schoolyard landscapes to support environmental and instructional goals, as well as prioritize opportunities for greening through existing projects and return in 60-90 days with a recommendation regarding a cost neutral strategy for sharing the development of sustainable schoolyards and environmental initiatives and environmental instruction between the Facilities Services Division, the Network for a Healthy California-LAUSD and the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support. The Task Force will serve an advocacy and public education role regarding the development, access, maintenance and funding of community-led greening projects on school sites. The Task Force will make recommendations for improvements to the District's process for establishing and updating goals, and reviewing proposals for the creation of new outdoor school garden classrooms/laboratories. Board District 4 will take the lead for the Board of Education with this initiative.

The report shall focus on process improvements that will help:

- Prioritize the use of outdoor school garden classrooms/laboratories for standards-based instruction.
- Establish clear policies and procedures that are feasible to implement and aligned with the District's vision.
- Enhance collaboration between the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and School Support, the Facilities Services Division, and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, and the Network for Healthy California-LAUSD with regard to establishing and updating the design guidelines and instructional requirements for the development and execution of outdoor school garden classroom/laboratory projects.
- Create a mechanism and guidelines by which stakeholders are able to engage with the District on a regular basis.
- Ensure Facilities Services Division maintains direct veto power over the site selections that pose a credible financial or safety threat to district resources including District resources including status and campus facilities and grounds.
- Improve nutrition and food access for low income students and families by reducing the 'garden gap' created by the disproportionately low placement of school garden programs at Title I schools.
- Ensure that the Task Force prioritizes sustainable classrooms and school garden investments at schools with highest need for environmental and nutrition education.

**SUBJECT:** Expand Sustainable Schoolyards and Environmental Initiatives and Curriculum

**AYES**                      **NOES**                      **ABSTAIN**                      **ABSENT**

<b>Ms. Galatzan</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Mr. Kayser</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ms. LaMotte</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ms. Martinez</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Dr. Vladovic</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Mr. Zimmer</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ms. Garcia</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>			

**ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED**