



# Facts from the Table

A Report from the Long Beach Unified School District Negotiating Team ■ March 20, 2006

## O.C. Districts Cut Teacher Jobs, Raise Class Sizes, Reduce Pay 4%

Neighboring Los Alamitos Unified School District eliminated its 20-to-1 class size reduction in third grade this week as part of a plan to deal with skyrocketing costs of health care and other employee benefits. Those costs increased more than 22 percent above their projected amount this fiscal year, according to the *Orange County Register*.

Annual double-digit increases in health care costs have created a national crisis. Every major employer in the U.S. is struggling with the same challenges. So are school districts everywhere. The Los Alamitos district is eliminating 34 full-time positions, including 20 teachers.

“Almost every Orange County district has had to make major cuts in the last four years,” the *Register* article said.

Orange County’s largest school district—Santa Ana—announced earlier this year that it would lay off as many as 200 teachers before next school year to help save \$15 million, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Santa Ana is facing the same problem as more than half of school districts statewide: declining enrollment, the *Times* reported.

With fewer students, school districts receive less state funding. Santa Ana cut \$29 million in 2004 by increasing class sizes, eliminating 420 jobs and persuading teachers and administrators to accept a **4 percent pay cut** for two years.

## LBUSD Prevents Layoffs, Keeps Smaller Classes, Offers 4% Raise

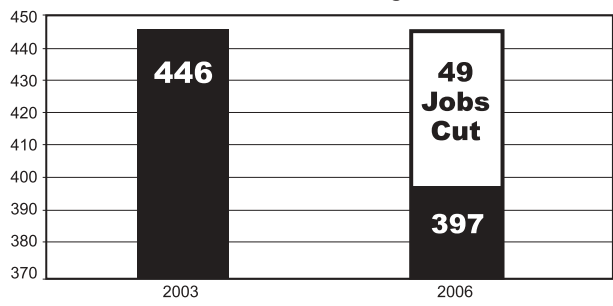
Unlike other nearby school districts, the Long Beach Unified School District has avoided laying off teachers or cutting their pay. LBUSD has maintained smaller class sizes while continuing to offer an immediate, **4 percent pay raise** with no cap on district-paid health benefits.

These remarkable accomplishments have been achieved despite the fact that Long Beach faces the same—and sometimes even more severe—budget challenges as other California school systems. Among those challenges are declining enrollment, rising health care costs and the state’s recent suspension of Proposition 98 funding guarantees.

Most of LBUSD’s cuts in recent years have been kept away from the classroom, protecting teachers and the instruction of students. That’s why:

- No teacher has been laid off here.
- Class size reduction of 20 to 1 has been preserved in grades K-3.
- Class sizes have been further reduced in grades 4 and 5.
- Class size provisions in the TALB contract have remained the same.
- The ratio of all district teachers to students is 21 to 1, the same as the average for L.A. County.
- The number of LBUSD administrators and managers has decreased by 49 full-time equivalent positions since 2003.

Administrators, Managers Cut



Administrative and management positions in LBUSD have been cut by 49 full-time equivalent jobs since 2003.

## What Others Say: A Fair Deal for Teachers

### Proposed pay raise is a solid increase for educators.

“LBUSD teachers are paid fairly when compared with national and local data... As it turns out, Long Beach pays teachers more than most districts in Los Angeles County in several job classifications.

“The above-inflation increase would nudge the average teacher salary to \$57,860, and health insurance is still on the house.”

— *Long Beach Press-Telegram Editorial Board*  
March 16, 2006