

## **Resolution 7.09 - Resolution for Green Schools**

WHEREAS nationally, some 55 million K-12 students and 5 million pre-K students spend their school days in facilities that are too often unhealthy and a hindrance to their ability to learn; and

WHEREAS in general, "74% of the nation's school buildings" need replacement, incurring a staggering energy cost of \$238.60 per K-12 student nationwide (one third of all facility costs); and

WHEREAS over 27 million students every year participate in the National School Breakfast/School lunch program to receive free or reduced meals from their schools;

WHEREAS: The Los Angeles Unified School Board (LAUSD) unanimously adopted a resolution to enforce physical education laws for all students on July 8, 2008. The resolution is a victory. Implementing the resolution at LAUSD, and persuading every school district to enforce physical education laws, are the next challenges;

WHEREAS: Thirty seven school districts throughout California including LAUSD did not enforce physical education requirements in 2006. The strategic campaign resulting in the LAUSD resolution is a best practice example to engage, educate, and empower parents, teachers, students, and civic leaders to demand quality physical education in public schools. Physical education will help students move more, eat well, stay healthy, and do their best in school and in life. Physically fit students tend to do better academically, stay in school longer, and avoid gangs and criminal activity;

WHEREAS: The resolution addresses enforcing required minutes of physical education; providing qualified physical education teachers; reducing physical education class sizes; achieving equal justice through quality physical education for all; and obtaining state resources to pay for quality physical education.

WHEREAS: According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, obesity among LAUSD students has increased from 20.2% in 1999 to 26.1% in 2006, going from 1 in 5 children being obese to over 1 in 4. The percentage of obese school children continues to be persistently higher at LAUSD compared to other schools in the County;

WHEREAS: 90% of LAUSD children are children of color, and 74% are low income (qualify for free or reduced meals).

WHEREAS: Diverse complainants have filed a Williams complaint to remedy physical education vacancies and misassignments, and the pattern and practice of depriving students of quality physical education.

WHEREAS: The California Endowment has published evidence-based policy reports including Physical Education Matters and Failing Fitness, documenting the importance of physical education in the full development of the child, and documenting health and obesity disparities based on race, ethnicity, and income.

1. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that organizations represented by delegates of the 2007 National Latino Congreso call on America's schools promote a healthy, safe learning environment, which includes:

a) Removing toxins from school sites, including toxic cleaning supplies, to be replaced with non-toxic alternatives; and

b) Ensuring healthy, local, and organic foods are provided to all students with support from programs such as Head Start and the National School Lunch Program; and

c) Mandating curriculum that includes national environmental education standards; and

d) Increasing outdoor education and recreation; and

e) Creating a viable, holistic learning environment for all because every student deserves to attend a healthy school; and

2. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all schools sites and buildings in America be designed with sustainability and a healthy learning environment in mind, which includes:

a) Ensuring all school buildings take measures to be energy efficient by improving HVAC systems, temperature control, window and wall insulation, and lighting, to lower energy costs and improve the ability of students to learn; and"

b) Including green spaces, such as green roofs and outdoor classrooms, to promote environmental education and healthy environments; and

c) Ensuring all school buildings meet nationally recognized green building and design standards, such as the USGBC Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or the

Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) in order to promote sustainability and lower school maintenance costs; and

d) Striving to utilize renewable energy technologies for school energy needs.

3. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: School districts should enforce physical education requirements and provide quality physical education for all to help students move more, eat well, stay healthy, and do their best in school and in life.

4. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that organizations represented by delegates of the 2007 National Latino Congreso call on states to create a grant making program for teachers to promote environmental education instruction in schools in order for them to obtain the resources and instruction necessary to teach more environmental education in their classes; and

5. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all above goals should be achieved by 2030 to attain the set target of greening America's schools within a generation.