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NEWS RELEASE

February 15, 2008
#07/08-226

LAUSD AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL GRANTS

Los Angeles - The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced today that its Beyond the Bell after school programs received a \$617,160 grant from the LA84 Foundation. Monies from this hefty grant will assist nearly 20,000 students who are expected to participate in seasonal sports leagues in basketball, soccer, softball and flag football.

“We are thrilled to be able to partner with the LA84 Foundation on this project,” said Alvaro Cortés, Assistant Superintendent of Beyond the Bell. “We look forward to enhancing our sports program for all middle school students. This significant grant will assist us in providing a safe, nurturing environment that connects students to their school and community.”

The grant will provide much-needed services to middle schools. With this extra funding, LAUSD officials will hire part-time, after-school playground coaches’ at all 82 LAUSD middle schools. They will oversee sport activities from school dismissal until 6 p.m. In addition, these coaches will help organize sports teams and leagues.

“LA84 Foundation’s generous grant award will enable us to bring additional coaches to the Youth Services After-School Program,” added Tim Bower, Director of Student Auxiliary Services for the Beyond the Bell Branch. “Thousands more middle school students will have quality teaching and increased activity in each of the four sports on a daily basis. This is a tremendous increase in our program that will keep students engaged in healthy and active activities.”

In addition, LA’s BEST After School Enrichment Program (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow) will receive \$306,472. The grant will enable LA’s BEST to increase practice time and run competitions for softball, basketball, flag football and track and field. “Funding from the LA84 Foundation enables LA’s BEST staff to introduce competition in sports with the kind of training that ensures positive experiences for children,” said Carla Sanger, President & CEO of LA’s BEST. LA’s BEST is a nationally recognized after-school education, enrichment and recreation program serving

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more than 26,000 children with the greatest needs and fewest resources throughout the City of Los Angeles at 180 elementary school sites each day. Established in 1988, LA's BEST is a partnership including the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the private sector.

The LA84 Foundation was established to manage Southern California's share of the surplus from the highly successful 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The Foundation received \$94 million at its inception and, since then, has invested \$171 million in sports programs serving more than two million youth in the eight Southern California counties of Los Angeles, Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

The Los Angeles Unified School District created the Beyond the Bell Branch (BTB) to service students before and after school. LAUSD made a commitment that all students within the District have access to high quality, safe and supervised educational, enrichment and recreational programs that engage and inspire learning and achievement beyond the regular school day.

BTB is responsible for a wide range of programs and activities, including After School Education Safety Programs, All District Honor Band, Band & Drill Team Championships, Before School Education and Safety Programs, Civic Center Permits, Congressional Awards, Extended Learning Academies, Extended Learning Program, KidCare, LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program, LA Bridges, NCLB Supplemental Educational Services, Outdoor Education Program, Standards-Based Promotion, Students Run LA, LA Team Mentoring, Youth Services and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

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