

# LA84/LAUSD BEYOND THE BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

*Life Ready Through Sport*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The LA84 Foundation has funded the LA84 / Beyond the Bell Middle School Sports Program (MSSP) for the past eight years. The program offers organized sports, free of charge, for any Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) student enrolled in the Beyond the Bell after school program, at all LAUSD middle schools. Students at every school may choose from at least four seasonal sports – basketball, flag football, soccer and volleyball – throughout the year. Supplemental sports are also offered at selected schools.

The MSSP began in 2008-2009 to address the drop in sports participation during a critical time in which youth are developing social skills and self-esteem. Statistics showed that the drop happened when youngsters hit the 11-14 age group because of a myriad of issues including peer pressure, interest in activities

other than sports, body changes during adolescence and cost concerns. From our grant making experience we knew that many opportunities for sports participation were available for elementary-age youth, but few for middle school. Furthermore, we believed that keeping middle school kids engaged with their school would promote positive academic, socio-emotional and health outcomes.

**THE PROGRAM OFFERS ORGANIZED SPORTS,  
WITH TRAINED COACHES, FREE OF CHARGE**

The growth of program participation has exceeded our expectations. We have also seen positive indicators that lead us to believe that the program has an impact beyond sports.

**PROGRAM RESULTS BASED ON AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION  
BY THE CLAREMONT EVALUATION CENTER SHOWED THAT:**

 **57%**

**REGULAR UNDUPLICATED  
PARTICIPANTS HAVE INCREASED  
57% SINCE INCEPTION TO LAST  
YEAR FROM, 5,606 TO 8,810**

Unduplicated means each student is counted only once per year, regardless of the number of sports he/she may participate in throughout the year. Regular means 15 or more days of participation.

## ETHNIC BREAKDOWN



LATINO



AFRICAN  
AMERICAN



**HIGHER  
GPA'S**

Regular 8th grade participation is associated with higher GPA's in core courses in grades 8 through 10

**77%**



**LAUSD STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR  
FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH**

PROGRAM RESULTS BASED ON AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION BY THE CLAREMONT EVALUATION CENTER SHOWED THAT:

43% 

NEARLY 43% OF THE REGULAR LA84 PARTICIPANTS ARE INVOLVED IN MORE THAN ONE SPORT

94% 

English language learners with Spanish as the primary language

YOUTH IN PROGRAM TRANSITION TO ENGLISH-ONLY INSTRUCTION AT A HIGHER RATE THAN NON-PARTICIPANTS



Regular participation (15 or more days) in 8th grade is associated with higher pass rates in Algebra I and more advanced mathematics in grades 9 and 10.

 THE NUMBER OF SPORTS OFFERED IN THE PROGRAM HAS INCREASED SINCE INCEPTION

The number and percentage of students participating more than 55 days a year and the number and percentage of students sampling more than one sport have increased since the program's inception.

 163%

INCREASE IN FEMALE PARTICIPANTS IN REGULAR CORE SPORT SINCE 2008

THE PROPORTION OF STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM INCREASE WITH GRADE LEVEL

This trend runs counter to participation findings in after-school programs that usually show participation declines in higher grades as students gain an increasing degree of freedom and availability of alternative activities.



THE PROGRAM IS NOW AT 94 MIDDLE SCHOOLS



ABOUT LA84

As a legacy of the 1984 Olympic Games, the LA84 Foundation is a nationally recognized leader in support of youth sport programs and in elevating the importance of the role sports play in positive youth development. LA84 seeks to provide an opportunity for every child to participate in sports, and to improve social, academic, and health outcomes of youth.



For more information on LA84 log onto [www.la84.org](http://www.la84.org)