

Policy Memorandum

MEMORANDUM FOR The Los Angeles Unified School District

Group 1 Global-Warming Forum

Subject: Emergency Funding for Environmental Education Reforms

I. Action-Forcing Event

- There is a lack of education concerning environmental issues. The topics school districts focus on overlook the importance of the nation's youth fostering awareness of the state of the environment. The lack of education is a result of the lack of academic resources necessary to have a competitive edge in the global market. The lack of education concerning environmental issues also results in unhealthy lifestyles from young students, placing their lives in immediate danger. By providing the students with an education implementing environmental issues, they have the ability to discourse with students outside of their regions in order to create innovative solutions to help promote a healthier environment. Our program will create a sense of intergenerational equity, preserving a sustainable environment for future generations.

II. Background/Analysis

- The absence of a specialized environmental program in the national education curriculum creates a substantial disadvantage in the American education. The continuation of our present educational system will result in the exponential growth of an unsustainable American society leading to the continued increase of global climate change as well as a lack of awareness in future generations.
- Potential problems that face our educational institution include the following: a lack of funding, a lack of general public support, setting a national standard for environmental education with federal support.
- Throughout the state of Florida, the State Education and Environmental Roundtable employed the EIC model. The SEER illustrated the advantages of using the environment as an integrating context for learning. Comparing this model to standard control schools resulted in increased test scores in all areas of standardized testing, reduced disciplinary problems, increased student involvement, and increased attendance rates. (www.SEER.org)

III. Recommendation

- The project would include a federally funded environmental education reform that is structured specifically for grade levels K-6. The new institution is going to focus on outdoor education as well as urban sustainability. The program will be completed through the implementation of the following six-step phase program: create a model, secure funding, commence a pilot program, measure areas of success and failure, revision, and generate expansion and a long-term proposal.
- Our six-step phase program emphasizes the significance placed in creating an efficient and effective program. As the program develops through the phases, the results that appear as the phases develop provide the necessary information that is essential in formulating adjustments that will make the program constructive.
- As the program undergoes the initial phases of development, local and private businesses that promote and provide environment friendly products to consumers will be consulted in order to gain the support from the surrounding community. The willingness of the local and private businesses to provide funding and support for our developing program will provide those businesses with the opportunity to advertise the green products they create, which will benefit the students while promoting a healthy environment.
- Throughout our development stages, funding proposals will be applied to the following agencies in order to gain monetary support: federal education grants, state education funds, corporate grants, local business grants, and private organization support.
- Potential barriers may include opposition to an emphasis on environmental education that may minimize the importance of a traditional core educational curriculum and an opposition from special interest groups such as religious organizations.

IV. Group's Role

- The group has the opportunity to illustrate the urgent crisis that the environment faces today while facilitating methods for improvement. The group has to concentrate on advocating to current state and legislative representatives the importance of implementing the environmental program into the school system. The group also has the responsibility of electing future environmentally conscious officials that will continually promote a sustainable future. The support of the legislation and Los Angeles school boards will ease the process of our developing environmental curriculum.