

Assistance League[®] of Long Beach

Operation School Bell[®] Corporate Partnership

PROSPECTUS

There are children in the Long Beach community whose families cannot afford school uniforms, children who miss class because they cannot dress appropriately. For these children, Operation School Bell is the only community program providing the “**safety-net**” of new, free school uniforms.

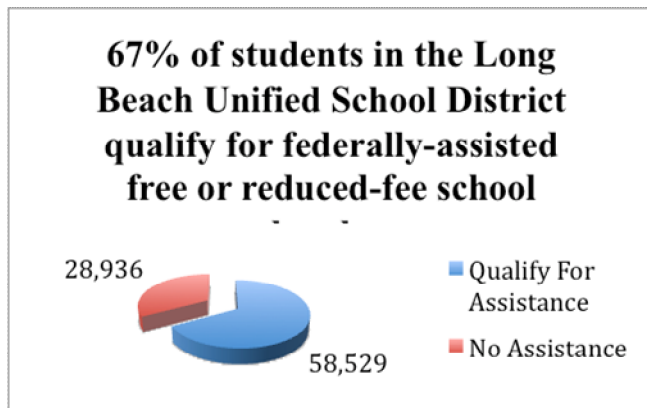
Operation School Bell is a philanthropic program of Assistance League[®] of Long Beach, dedicated to the vision that no child should fail to attend or perform in school for lack of adequate clothing. Operation School Bell Corporate Partners share this vision for the children and schools of Long Beach and assist in underwriting the purchase costs of school uniforms for the neediest students.

Operation School Bell has been clothing children in Long Beach schools since 1974. With the introduction of mandatory school uniforms in 1992, the program has taken on new significance and new urgency. It has been demonstrated that:

- School uniforms improve the learning environment and reduce distractions in the classroom.
- Schools that mandate uniforms have fewer absences, fewer suspensions and better test scores.
- School uniforms improve discipline and reduce gang influences on campuses.

But the families of many Long Beach students cannot afford to pay for uniforms.

As many as fifty percent of the 88,000 students in the Long Beach Unified School District live in households with incomes at or below the poverty level. Nearly seventy percent of the district’s students qualify for subsidized school lunches.



Operation School Bell exists to serve our students in the Long Beach Unified School District. As the number of students in need increases, our services must expand to keep pace. In partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District, Operation School Bell is making plans to significantly increase the number of children clothed each school year, to provide complete uniforms to 10,000 students annually by the year 2011.

Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent, Chris Steinhauser states that,

We attribute much of our nationally recognized success regarding school uniforms to the Assistance League, which has clothed thousands of school children whose families cannot afford to buy uniforms. We need and deeply appreciate the Assistance League's continued and expanded support.

There is nothing like seeing the pride and joy on children's faces when they receive and wear new uniforms. The boost to students' self-confidence is vital to their success in the classroom. Teachers, parents and school administrators report that uniforms help to reduce peer pressure, prevent gang violence, reduce disciplinary issues and enhance the image of our schools.

For 35 years, Assistance League of Long Beach has supported Operation School Bell through the volunteer action and fundraising of its members. Our first auxiliary Rick Rackers started this program and for many years provided new school clothes to elementary children who were the most in need. Since the 1970's, Rick Rackers and chapter members have clothed thousands of children from grades K-12 in the Long Beach Unified School District.

To meet the schools' challenging new goals, Assistance League invites the business community to join as Operation School Bell Corporate Partners, assisting in underwriting the purchase costs of school uniforms for the neediest students in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Funding from Operation School Bell Corporate Partners is exclusively dedicated to purchasing uniforms to clothe children:

- **Senior Partners (\$10,000)** provide school uniforms for 182 students each school year
- **Partners (\$5,000)** provide school uniforms for 91 students per year
- **Associates (\$2,500)** provide school uniforms for 45 students per year
- **Friends (\$1,000)** provide school uniforms for 18 students
- **Supporters (\$500)** provide school uniforms for 9 students per year.

Operation School Bell Corporate Partners join with Assistance League of Long Beach and the Long Beach Unified School District to fulfill the vision that each child must arrive at the classroom door ready to learn, preparing them to be successful in the future.