

2014-2015 School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2014-2015

Charter Title I Magnet Private Independent

Name of Principal: **Dr. Reginald Sample**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name: **Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High**

(As it should appear on an award)

Official School Name Mailing Address: **3537 Farmdale Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90016-4707**

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: **Los Angeles**

State School Code Number *: **19-64733-1932383**

Telephone: **(323) 298-8400** Fax: **(323) 298-8501**

Web site/URL: www.dorseydons.org E-mail: reginald.sample@lausd.net

*Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: **January 23, 2015**

(Principal's Signature)



Name of Superintendent: **Mr. Ramon C. Cortines**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)

District Name: **Los Angeles Unified School District**

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

_____  _____ Date: **January 23, 2015**
 (Superintendent's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: **California Department of Education**

Name of Nominating Authority: **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

_____  _____ Date: **January 27, 2015**
 (Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent "snapshot" that describes how your school is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and nine Elements. Then, include documentation and concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element.

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
 Expiration Date: February 28, 2015

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High

California Disadvantaged Nominee to
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools



Prepared by
California Department of Education
School Facilities and Transportation Services Division
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/greenribbonprog.asp>
January 2015

PART II – SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High, Los Angeles, Calif.

Comprehensive sustainability education as a leadership development model

Dorsey High School is located in South Los Angeles, a densely urban, multi-cultural area of the City. Dorsey takes an integrative, multidisciplinary approach to environmental education by leveraging local resources and developing innovative strategies and partnerships to incorporate outdoor and experiential learning, STEAM, and career technical training. Community engagement, collaboration, and service contribute to a comprehensive sustainability education and leadership development model for a diverse community.

The LA Audubon Society's Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Internship and Restoration Leadership programs provide standards-based programming that incorporates sustainability into outdoor education, science, art, community engagement, leadership, and college and career preparation. The program provides students the opportunity to work with biologists and restoration ecologists and serve as researchers at the nearby Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. Students create and deliver curriculum to younger students and serve as peer-to-peer mentors, leaders and docents. They engage the community through service learning and conduct high-level environmental research and analysis, while restoring and protecting a precious urban oasis in their neighborhood. Students who have participated in these programs have gone on to attend prestigious universities such as Yale and Brown.

Dorsey's innovative Mentorship program with Leo Politi Elementary is model for other schools. What began with Dorsey students helping to establish and plant Politi's celebrated native bird/pollinator garden has grown into a robust, continuing program whereby Dorsey students serve as role models as they mentor and help educate Politi's students on a broader basis. The habitat serves as an outdoor classroom for science, art, English language arts, leadership, and community engagement, using sustainability as a framework. Politi's science scores improved and young students began to feel a lifelong connection with the environment.

Dorsey's Eco-Club has grown from 15 original students to over 50 active members today. Together they have implemented several recycling and campus litter abatement programs, and produced the anti-littering film "An Unnatural Disaster." In 2011, a group of seven students wrote and illustrated Kill Your Lawn, a comic book to raise community awareness about the conservation value of replacing lawn with native plant species. Eco-club members successfully led the school in diverting 28,650 pounds of materials from landfill to win Generation Earth's "Battle of the Schools." Eco-Club alumnus Juan Martinez was given the option of continuing to sit in detention or joining the Eco-Club. Juan chose the club; he is now Director of Leadership Development at Children & Nature Network.

Dorsey's school garden has a thriving native plant population installed and supported by the University of California Master Gardener Program, as well as sustainably harvested bed gardens donated by Victorious Green. Students learn science in the Native Plant garden and harvest the organic fruit and vegetables grown in raised beds for use in their culinary arts program. The students host a WebTV cooking show called "Cooking Live with Dorsey High," and their Turkey Chili Bean Delight recipe was lauded by USDA's 2014 "Recipe for Healthy Kids Challenge." Autistic students work in the garden as part of their vocational program as well.

Two new LEED Silver buildings opened on campus in 2013. The new gym and 9th grade academy building provide high performance, healthy, and comfortable learning environments.

The new buildings, which replaced more than 50,000 square feet of asphalt with cool roofs and high albedo paving, also include a solar array. Storm water is managed via a rain capture cistern.

Dorsey High School is privileged to work with excellent partners and mentor organizations to bring sustainability education to its students. Dorsey students are scholars, environmental stewards, mentors to younger students, and natural leaders in their community.

PART III – DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF DISTRICT NOMINEE

Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Element IA: Energy

- Dorsey follows the guidelines provided by the District's Sustainability Initiatives and Energy Management Units which have been gathered into a formal Energy Conservation Plan for all schools and facilities.
- Dorsey calculated an overall 16% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between July 2009 and June 2012 by comparing the 2009 baseline GHG emissions (based on total kWh) with the 2012 GHG emissions. 60 trees planted by students sequester a total of approximately 6,000 pounds of CO₂/year.
- Dorsey tracks resource use in EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and has earned a score of 75.
- Dorsey calculated a 14.02% reduction in its total non-transportation energy use from June 2009 to June 2012. The current energy use is 3,618 kWh per student or 16 kWh per square foot. Usage calculations are based on the school's utility bills as provided by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The time from July 2012 through June 2014 has been excluded due to the construction and opening of two additional buildings totaling 51,692 square feet in mid-Fiscal Year 12/13.
- Dorsey has a solar array with a production capacity representing 3.2% of total energy consumption.
- 20% of LADWP's power resources are from renewables, including solar, hydro, biomass, wind, and biogas.
- Two major modernization projects were completed at Dorsey in 2013: a new ninth grade academy classroom building with thirteen general classrooms, one flexible classroom, one flexible science classroom, and two science classrooms; and a new competition gymnasium with rooms for ticket sales, faculty offices, locker rooms, and concessions. Both projects are Certified LEED Silver, meeting or exceeding LEED standards in the areas of energy conservation, water stewardship, storm water management, materials/resource management, site development, indoor air quality, daylighting, thermal and acoustical comfort, and innovative educational elements. They also meet the requirements of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) green school rating program. The new buildings' sustainable features are explained in a display in the main office.
- The District has incorporated cool roofs into the Design Guidelines and Construction Specifications to reduce heat island effect. The new classroom building and gymnasium projects completed in 2013 have cool roofs, as do several buildings that have had recent

roof replacement. The new buildings also feature light-colored high-albedo concrete paving in the exterior plaza areas; thus, more than 50,000 square feet of asphalt and dark roofing materials has been replaced with high albedo surfaces, landscaping, and trees.

- In 2013, the existing gymnasium was renovated, including retrofit of all lighting to higher efficiency fixtures. All T-12 fixtures were replaced with T-8 fixtures, and the gymnasium lighting was upgraded to energy saving dimming electronic ballast fixtures.

Element IB: Water and Grounds

- Dorsey's current water use is 4,669 gallons per person. The LEED Certified classroom building is projected to reduce potable water for sewage conveyance by 39%, and to reduce potable water used for irrigation by 68.8%, compared to standard baseline. Irrigation is not separately metered.
- 25% of the school's landscaping is considered water-efficient and/or regionally appropriate, including the following types:
 - Gym: Lagerstroemia x Fauriei (Crape Myrtle), Populus Nigra (Lombardy Poplar), Quercus agrifolia (Coast Live Oak), Tipuana (Tipu Tree), Washingtonia Filifera (CA Fan Palm), Carex Tumulicola (Berkeley Sedge), Festuca Glauca (Blue Fescue), Iris Douglasiana (Douglas Iris), Juncus Patens (CA Gray Rush), Ligustrum Japonicum 'Texanum' (Waxleaf Privet), Muhlenbergia Rigens (Deer Grass).
 - Campus: Jacaranda.
 - Garden: Baccharis Pilularis (Coyote Brush), Sumac, Penstemon, Phormium (New Zealand Flax).
- The EcoRain detention system retains stormwater and allows it to percolate into the local aquifer, replenishing the existing groundwater supplies. The system has a storage capacity of over 16,500 cubic feet. Also, permeable concrete pavers were installed in the patios and walkways around the new buildings, replacing the pre-construction asphalt. Students planted 60 additional trees on site, further encouraging infiltration rather than runoff.
- The municipal water provider (LADWP) samples and tests the water at 300 monitoring locations throughout the City every day to make sure it is safe for all uses. Testing shows that the water meets or exceeds all State and Federal drinking water standards. All drinking water fountains and faucets and all food service faucets are flushed for a minimum of 30 seconds prior to first use each day to reduce lead levels. If levels remain too high, plumbing is replaced.
- Dorsey is one of only a few single-story legacy high schools that is surrounded by greenery. Approximately 50% of the site is dedicated to outdoor recreation, outdoor classrooms, informal gathering spaces, gardens, and native plant habitat. The quad area is also used for events, such as the Earth Day festival, and community service, such as the recent free fruit tree giveaway.

Element IC: Waste

- 29% of solid waste is diverted from landfilling or incinerating due to reduction, recycling, and/or composting, and service is stopped or reduced during non-service times. The monthly waste generated per person is 0.196 cubic yards.
- 10% of the school's total office/classroom paper content is Certified Forest Content and 90% has Certified Sourcing, according to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

- Between October 2009 and February 2012, Dorsey reduced hazardous waste generation as well as the types of waste generated. Much of the earlier waste generation was due to activities undertaken to enhance the health and safety of students, which have been completed. All hazardous waste is properly segregated, sealed, labeled, dated, and disposed of by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety per State and Federal Regulations. Inventories are shared with the local Fire Department as well.
- Waste and recycling is tracked by the District's hauling vendor, calculating the number of trash/recycle bins tipped per month and multiplying by the averaged tonnage of each full recycle or trash bin.
- Dorsey students have initiated and participated in several recycling initiatives: a bottle and can campaign; a mixed paper, plastic, and aluminum recycling program; an e-waste program; a campus litter abatement program which included a poster contest and a student film entitled "An Unnatural Disaster;" and a sustainable fashion course where students "upcycled" old t-shirts into things like reusable shopping bags.
- Dorsey uses microfiber rags, towels, flat and fringed mops, HEPA filters on vacuums, and a range of Green Seal certified cleaning solutions. 25% of cleaning products are green certified GS-37 Green Seal (industrial and institutional). LAUSD's purchasing catalog includes green products, such as recycled toilet paper and paper towels, cardboard storage and moving boxes, and compostable bags.

Element ID: Alternative Transportation

- Describe how these percentages were collected and calculated: Dorsey staff estimates based on observation that 75% of students walk to school; 10% bicycle; 5% carpool; 5% take the school bus; and 5% utilize other public transportation. The school is located directly adjacent to the newly-opened Farmdale Station of the LA County Metro Expo line. Bike and walking paths with signage were installed as part of the Metro project. Many faculty also live in the community and walk or bike to school as well.
- Dorsey has a well-publicized no-idling policy that applies to all vehicles (including school buses that are required to meet the California Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Limit School Bus Idling and Idling at Schools Regulation), and vehicle loading/unloading areas are at least 25 feet from building intakes, doors, and windows.
- The City of Los Angeles provides a safe route to every school, which is posted on the District's Office of Environmental Health and Safety website. The route is distributed to parents and is posted in the main office along with Pedestrian Safety and other alerts. Students also make use of the new metro line train that runs and stops just adjacent to campus. Marked bike and walk lanes and signage were installed as part of the Expo project as well. Secure bicycle storage is provided to encourage bicycling to school.
- With the recent installation of the Metro express railway adjacent to campus, Dorsey has partnered with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide discounts for students who elect to use the express rail in lieu of driving. Crenshaw-Dorsey Safe Passages, a program implemented by the District Attorney's office and Los Angeles Police Department, allows students to feel safe while traveling to school, thus encouraging more students to walk or bike.

Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Element IA: Environmental Health

- In 1999, LAUSD became one of the first Districts in the nation to adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The cafeteria is inspected monthly by technicians in

accordance with the school's IPM Handbook with IPM Policies and Procedures, the Healthy Schools Act, the approved product list, required forms, and Site Activity Log. Notice of all pesticide application is posted and sent to parents 72 hours in advance, and all applications are recorded. Records are kept for four years. LAUSD use of chemical pesticide is extremely rare.

- LAUSD's IPM Program received two Innovator Awards from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for practices such as the use of heat to eradicate termites and the use of beneficial insects. Chemical pesticide use is already negligible, so reduction does not apply.
- Dorsey has a chemical management program that includes: chemical purchasing policy (low- or no-volatile organic compounds (VOC) products), storage and labeling, training and handling, chemical inventory, hazard communication (clean-up and disposal), purchasing policy for less toxic products including less toxic art supplies, and selecting third-party-certified green cleaning products.
- Dorsey is tobacco and aerosol free, as are all District schools and offices.
- Dorsey adheres to the Asbestos Act and has an asbestos management plan in place. All maintenance staff has received 16 hours of asbestos training and the Plant Manager has received asbestos awareness training. The school receives asbestos surveillance by technicians every six months, and is fully inspected every three years. Elemental mercury has been removed and is prohibited. Dorsey has no wood playground equipment.
- All of the new classrooms meet LEED acoustic requirements (< 45 dBA). Sound level in the existing 78-year old classrooms must be below 50 dBA. Skylights in the original double-loaded hallways bring in natural light, and natural daylight in existing classrooms is supplemented by high quality lighting. The new gym building provides daylighting to 96% of regularly occupied spaces; the classroom building provides natural light in all of the classrooms and regularly-occupied spaces, with appropriate controls to prevent glare, such as interior roller shades and exterior sunshades. The lighting system provides appropriate light levels at student desks and at the teaching wall and includes occupancy sensors. Pendant light fixtures provide bright, even lighting throughout the classrooms. The mechanical systems of the new buildings have been developed to meet the standards for thermal comfort and humidity control, radiant temperature and air movement as established by ASHRAE 55.
- Dorsey's Chemical Safety Coordinator is responsible for implementing the District's Hazard Communication and Chemical Hygiene standards, including documentation, inventory control, labeling and handling, and training. The CSC conducts a monthly inventory and yearly staff trainings in hazard communication and science teacher trainings in chemical hygiene. The CSC attends three Chemical Safety meetings each year and shares the information with the school. Science teachers follow the guidelines in the Science Safety Handbook for California Public Schools.
- To ensure the school is lead-safe, all painted surfaces are assumed to be lead containing. The Plant Manager monitors the condition of all paint and any unsafe condition is immediately recorded and reported. Cleanup and stabilization of paint is conducted by maintenance staff certified as "Lead Safe Schools" inspectors under 3rd-party review by the District's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Prep work for beautification projects is conducted by trained maintenance staff.
- The District has a robust Asthma Program run by LAUSD Nursing Services. The program includes information for staff, teachers, students and parents, as well as several

award-winning student-produced asthma awareness videos to help students in all grade levels understand and control asthma triggers such as the use of aerosols and fragrances. There is a District-wide no aerosol policy.

- All leaks and possible incidence of mold are immediately reported to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS). OEHS samples and remediates as necessary. Dehumidifiers are used for any incidence of water intrusion. Dorsey has installed local exhaust systems for major airborne contaminant sources.
- The filters on all HVAC equipment are changed quarterly and as needed. In the new 9th Grade Academy, new Gymnasium, and the renovated gym, air handling equipment is equipped with MERV 8-rated filters.
- Classrooms are required to have four air exchanges per hour with a 20/80 ratio of fresh to recycled air. Spaces that do not meet that standard are reported to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety for inspection and immediate action. In the new 9th Grade Academy and the new Gymnasium, the mechanical systems have been developed to meet baseline standards for air movement as established by ASHRAE 55. All classrooms at Dorsey have operable windows as well.
- The District's Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) conducts routine inspections in all District facilities. The inspections are conducted according to the Safe School Inspection Guidebook to identify potential health and safety risks and assess compliance with regulatory requirements. The Guidebook assists school administrators in complying with applicable health and safety standards. As part of the inspection, OEHS reviews: Injury/Illness Prevention Plan, any regulatory permits issued to the school, Chemical Hygiene and Safety Plan, Hazard Communication Program, Availability of Asbestos Management Plan, health and safety training records, copies of both volumes of site's Safe School Plan, availability of the Integrated Pest Management Plan, and copies of completed Accident Investigation forms. The District provides the full IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit to enhance indoor learning and working environments and offers training via the Nursing Services Division.

Element IIB: Nutrition and Fitness

- Dorsey has been recognized in the USDA's Healthier US School Challenge and/or Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Culinary arts students' recipe was recognized by USDA's 2014 Recipe for Healthy Kids Challenge. The harvest from the on-site garden is used in cooking classes and the autism vocational program. Dorsey buys produce from neighboring Crenshaw High School's garden. The Culinary Arts Students' Popular Healthy and Tasty (PHAT) Kids Café provides weekly healthy meals to the faculty and community.
- Students spend 465 minutes per week in school-supervised physical education, 90% of which takes place outdoors. Students attend regular physical education classes and participate in intramural sports including football, basketball and track and field. The school conducts weekly formative assessments and annual State "Fitnessgram" assessments.
- Dorsey's coordinated Wellness Committee meets regularly and offers information on nutrition as well as fitness classes, like Zumba. The wellness policy extends to after school activities.
- A citywide program, Students Run Los Angeles (SRLA) trains 20-30 students for the LA Marathon in March each year with the help of an on-site marathon runner.

- The District's Beyond the Bell after school program offers students the opportunity to participate in intramural sports, structured physical activity, dance, and aerobics. The nearby Kenneth Hahn State Park is an urban oasis which offers the opportunity for supervised hiking in a lush natural setting, including a native plant and wildlife garden.
- Eco-Club students spend at least an hour per week in Dorsey's Native Plant and Literacy Garden. Garden curriculum has been developed and the garden serves as an outdoor classroom for science classes and as well as part of the vocational program for autistic students.
- Dorsey's Wellness Committee provides faculty and staff with monthly nutrition and wellness updates and resources. Staff can also take part in classes provided by the Wellness Committee, like cycling and Zumba, cardio and team athletic competitions. Some staff members take advantage of the school's running track for jogging before and after work. Staff also has access to fruit and vegetables such as apricots and kale, which are available in the edible garden. The Popular Healthy and Tasty (PHAT) Kids Café provides weekly meals to faculty and community through the culinary arts program. Staff also participates in "The Biggest Loser," a contest that awards a prize to the person who loses the most weight (%) in a 90-day period. The District has a staff wellness policy and offers additional resources for exercise and healthy eating.
- Other efforts to improve nutrition and fitness include:
 - Mother of Many (MOM), helping students produce "Cooking Live with Dorsey High," the Web TV production started in 2008 to showcase affordable, nutritious, and easy-to-make meals. They find inspiration from Michelle Obama's Let's Move website. MOM's "Eating Right to Feel Right" Program supports the Culinary Arts program with technology and training. Recently, Culinary Arts students were published on USDA's site for their award-winning Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge turkey chili bean delight and visited the White House.
 - From The Couch to The Kitchen is a book written by 45 Dorsey students in partnership with 826LA, a non-profit writing center. It showcases original student essays and artwork about their experiences with food in their community.
 - Dorsey receives fresh produce from Crenshaw's garden, continuing the schools' growing friendship. Dorsey also has an on-site food garden, supported for several years by the University of California Master Gardener Program. The garden supplies food for culinary arts classes and autism vocational training program.
 - Students get outdoors with Sierra Club and Outward Bound hiking expeditions and Audubon and Hahn State Park.
 - Dorsey partners with the Magic Johnson Foundation to promote HIV/AIDS awareness through their Empowering and Reinforcing Awareness of Students through Education (E.R.A.S.E) program.
 - The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) provides community gang intervention and at-risk youth support programs, as well as a Teen Police Advisory Board.
- Dorsey's Coordinated School Health approach includes partnerships with non-profits, community-based organizations, and local agencies to provide a safe learning environment and serve student health needs. Dorsey's consolidated team represents the District's health and nutrition services, physical education, counseling, and social services divisions, and partners with To Help Everyone (THE) and the LA Child Guidance Clinic to provide comprehensive medical and mental health services and

wellness education. The school's health initiative includes an expansive, student-led program of nutrition education and advocacy designed to promote healthy eating and prevent obesity. Dorsey has a strict anti-bullying policy and enforces the students' right to a healthy school climate.

- Dorsey is a member of the California School-Based Health Alliance. In addition to a full-time school nurse, Wellness Committee and Coordinated Services Team, a mobile wellness clinic provided by To Help Everyone (T.H.E.) visits the campus twice per week to provide a range of medical services, mental health support, reproductive health services, and health education. Mental health services are also provided by the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic.
- Dorsey is equipped with a guidance counseling office as well as on-site mental health professionals. The counseling services provide a supportive environment for students to talk about their concerns. Dorsey has a Safe School Climate Policy, which means that teachers and administration are committed to creating a healthy school climate. There are several diversity clubs on campus. In 2011, Dorsey hosted an anti-bullying summit in partnership with Verizon and the Beverly Hills/ Hollywood NAACP as part of the "Stop the Bullying" campaign. Students addressed teen domestic violence, bullying, and cyber bullying. Specialists in the field facilitated candid conversations in breakout sessions with students before the panel. Actors, comedians, and musicians came to the school and used their fame to promote a message of tolerance and overcoming bullying to students.

Pillar III: Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary Learning

- Dorsey defines environmental literacy as "Linking classroom learning to real world experiences through clubs, environmental excursions, research, and interactive environmental projects." In other words, Dorsey takes an integrated approach to environmental literacy—students are exposed to environmental and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) concepts through a variety of pathways, with a strong community engagement, collaboration, and service component. The program is designed to address all facets of sustainability and to provide students with a holistic understanding of environmentalism.
- Dorsey offers AP Environmental Science and an environmental or sustainability elective course.
- The Humanities program integrates filmmaking, artistic expression, social justice, and environmentalism. Students have produced their own documentaries on subjects including littering/recycling, school gardens, and habitat restoration activities. Led by Robert Jeffers, a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and finalist for California State Teacher of the Year who teaches English, Film, and Environmental Stewardship classes at Dorsey, the program focuses on integrating environmental stewardship and ecology into the curriculum, looking at ways to use the school as a teaching tool, and identifying opportunities to incorporate service learning into green activities. An example of this innovative strategy is From the Couch to the Kitchen, a book written by students in collaboration with the non-profit writing center 826LA about their experiences and traditions surrounding food. A food-based curriculum was developed as a foundation to the students' work on the book. In the first class, students took advantage of their on-site food garden and picked tomatoes and basil from the garden to make pasta in their classroom. They learned about nutrition, food chemistry, and the social importance of

the shared experience of food. Throughout the course, students wrote stories about their memories; experiences ranging from eating peanut butter and apples with a friend to eating gumbo as a family. Students also produced the artwork. Alice Waters, renowned Chef and restaurateur famous for her use of locally grown organic ingredients and founder of The Edible Schoolyard Project, wrote the book's forward.

- Dorsey's School of Business and Entrepreneurship Culinary Arts program also uses an integrative model to incorporate sustainability and wellness into its curriculum. They use the garden to learn about growing and cooking with organic fruits and vegetables as a basis for healthy, nutritious recipes. They share their recipes and cooking tips via a WebTV show called "Cooking Live with Dorsey High," and learn about technology, peer-to-peer education, community service, and career pathways in the process.
- The Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Internship, Restoration Leaders, and Politi Garden programs sponsored by Los Angeles Audubon Society are another opportunity to apply an integrative approach. The Restoration Leaders go through Restoration boot camp and are paid to conduct six community restoration projects as well as develop and implement environmental curricula to California State Education Standards for elementary school students. The students are in positions of leadership and must teach complex ecological concepts to younger students. Students in the Greenhouse program also conduct rigorous scientific inquiry and analysis of environmental issues. This ongoing program has been a great success. The science scores at Politi elementary school as well as the mentors' conceptual understanding have improved significantly since the program was implemented. LA Audubon will soon be launching a Greenhouse program-based Teacher Training Fellowship program.
- The Global Warriors Eco-Club has grown from an initial 15 to a current 50 active members. Its mission statement complements the school's definition of eco-literacy: "Dorsey Eco-Club strives to promote education, stewardship, and community involvement in our local and global ecosystems." Eco-Club students have implemented a series of green initiatives on campus including a mixed paper recycling program, a bottle and aluminum can recycling program, and a campus litter abatement program. Dorsey won the recycling "Battle of the Schools" facilitated by the Department of Public Works and the Generation Earth Program in 2009. Students held a poster contest and made an informative video on the importance of waste reduction to engage the student body and promote their new recycling programs.
- In a TED-Ed talk, Eco-Club alumni Juan Martinez tells his story of contemplating joining a gang, and being offered the choice between remaining in detention or joining the Global Warriors club. His first club activity was to grow jalapenos; "accidentally," he learning about photosynthesis and soil pH. Juan's experience in the club and growing sense of connection to nature led him to graduate from California State University-Los Angeles and to direct the Sierra Club's first environmental justice youth academy. He is now the Director of Leadership Development at the Children & Nature Network. In 2009, he was invited by the White House to attend the National Forum on Clean Energy Economy. He is a recipient of Congresswoman Hilda Solis' Environmental Youth Leadership Award and "Looking to the Future" award from the Breaking the Color Barriers conference. Juan opened up to something he might not have been receptive to in the classroom by getting connected with nature through Dorsey's Eco-Club.

Element IIIB: STEM Content, Knowledge, and Skills

- Dorsey's outdoor education program has been an invaluable tool in using sustainability and the environment for learning STEM thinking skills and content knowledge. The LA

Audubon's Greenhouse program offers students a paid internship at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, an oasis in urban South Los Angeles, where they conduct research with biologists and restoration ecologists, using the park as their lab. Students have spent over 850 hours on rigorous research projects about pollinator abundance, companion planting, and native plant seed germination rates. Audubon recently received funding for a portable lab that students will be able to use for their projects. The Baldwin Hills programs provide students with the opportunity to conduct research while gaining work experience that prepares them for college and employment. Students have produced a range of research projects including a solar powered birdbath for birds in a drought year.

- The Restoration Leadership Program teaches students habitat restoration techniques and they then conduct six community restoration events per year. They develop their own environmental curricula for elementary students that they mentor at Leo Politi Elementary and have gone on to deliver lessons to students as student Rangers at nearby Kenneth Hahn State Park.
- The Eco Club's habitat restoration activities provide another venue for learning environmental science, including conservation, biodiversity, and habitat management. The garden and curriculum provide an outdoor science classroom.
- Dorsey teams participated in The Aspen Challenge in 2013 and 2014. In this national competition, students are issued a seven-week challenge to offer solutions to pressing environmental issues. Solutions are evaluated for creativity, feasibility, sustainability, community outreach, originality, and teamwork. In 2013, Dorsey's team was one of the six finalists with their interoperability community/student partnership strategy for raising environmental awareness. In 2014, Dorsey's team designed a solar power trash compactor to reduce environmental impact. Through the Challenge, students used their STEM skills to produce a solution to an environmental and societal challenge.
- The Culinary Arts program is housed in the School of Business and Entrepreneurship and establishes a career pathway through knowledge of sustainability, wellness, environmental justice, and community engagement. Students create healthy food for their fellow students and gain real-world cooking and catering skills.
- Dorsey's school garden is also used in a vocational program for autistic students. Students plant various organic fruits and vegetables and learn about the growing process. They also cook with the produce, and make organic juices as an alternative healthy meal.
- MOM, in partnership with Microsoft, teaches students how to use software such as iLife and Final Cut to hone their digital production skills for projects like the culinary WebTV program "Cooking Live with Dorsey High." Students in Dorsey's Film Making classes made a public service announcement to raise awareness about the Western Snowy Plover with LA Audubon. Students produced the film including writing the script, scoring the music, and providing a Spanish translation version for the community.

Element III C: Civic Knowledge and Skills

- Community engagement, collaboration, and service are integral to Dorsey's sustainability program. Projects are designed to incorporate aspects of social justice, volunteerism, and mentorship. Partners like the LA Audubon Society, TogetherGreen, and Newfield provide standards-aligned urban conservation and civic engagement programs, including the Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Internship and Restoration Leaders Programs, Endangered Species Stewardship, and volunteer days. These urban ecology projects can be used for service learning credits.

- In addition to providing ongoing mentorship and curriculum for Politi's garden habitat, the Interns and Leaders have assisted in planning Leo Politi's Conservation Art Show, now in its fifth year. They prep the elementary students for their roles as docents to show their artwork and give schoolyard habitat tours. Politi Science Illustrators and Dorsey Greenhouse students collaborated to learn about pollinators and the western fence lizard. Politi students collected data in the Baldwin Hills habitat to design micro-habitats for wildlife. Dorsey students helped build the micro-habitats. Both the plans and the micro-habitats were on display.
- Each year, Dorsey students work to preserve the California Least Tern's habitat. They pull out invasive species so that the birds can nest. Eco Club members and interested students of any grade level can volunteer. They do habitat cleanups at least twice a year, both before and after the nesting season. Dorsey students serve as leaders for younger students and volunteers on this and many other community service days. The Dorsey Track team hosted CityPlants to give free fruit trees to community residents, providing a lasting resource for fresh fruit to their neighbors and spreading the word about sustainability.
- Outward Bound trips serve around 30 students per year at any grade level. Students familiarize themselves with plant ecology and fire restoration while on the trips. Dorsey has won two consecutive \$10,000 Sierra Club grants to send students to Yosemite for five-day curricular trips that get students outdoors and engaged with nature on personal, physical, and academic levels. Several students have returned to Yosemite through the WildLink and Nature Bridge programs.
- All Eco-Club members from every grade spend at least an hour outside each week tending to the native plant and edible gardens on campus. Their habitat restoration program also gets them outdoors and is open to all Dorsey students. The school garden serves as an outdoor science classroom, complete with curriculum. There are many outdoor experiences open to all students after school, including Students Run LA and Beyond the Bell (described above).
- The Restoration Leaders and Interns from LA Audubon's Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program spend a significant amount of time outside restoring urban habitats, mentoring younger students, engaging the community and conducting research. Students can apply at the end of 9th grade for admittance as a 10th grader. As such, several students have been in the program for three years. Participating students can also use this experience to satisfy their service learning project requirement. The program encourages students at all levels and abilities to apply, including students with special education designations.
- The 2013 Aspen Challenge offered Dorsey students the opportunity to implement STEM concepts and pursue social and environmental justice in an outdoor environment. They established partnerships with nonprofits organizations and local businesses to clean up beaches, restore gardens, teach environmental education, and assist in watershed habitat restoration. In the spirit of community service, the students then offered suggestions to another school on how to replicate the system. Trips coordinated by the Sierra Club and Outward Bound not only help students lead active lives, they also teach habitat restoration and plant ecology. The Sierra Club's grants allowed urban students from Crenshaw and Dorsey to hike Yosemite to connect to the environment and bring together rival communities. The Eco-Club's efforts to restore the Least Tern bird's habitat by weeding sea rocket, an invasive species that ruins the bird's nesting site, have been a long-standing commitment. The students also learn about bird species, habitats, environmental degradation, and collaboration. The club involves the community often.

- On Toyota's Helping Hands for America's Lands 20th anniversary, students, parents, and community members worked on a cleanup, and then the students took volunteers birding to show their knowledge.
- On Earth Day 2014, 31 Dorsey volunteers, six non-profits, dozens of community members, and a State Assembly member donated over 110 volunteer hours to habitat restoration and the garden. Baldwin Hills Restoration Leaders engage their community through cleanups. Leo Politi's outdoor classroom provides a space for Restoration Leaders to implement their curriculum, passing on a tradition of caring for native species. The school's on-site fruit trees and food garden is an experiential learning tool for science classes, culinary arts classes, and the autism vocational training program. The garden allows autistic students to learn about organic foods and how to cook healthy meals.
- Community partnerships are foundational to the program at Dorsey. The Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Internship and Restoration Leadership Programs, made possible through a partnership with the LA Audubon Society, create space for Dorsey students to flourish as well as give back to the community. Students learn and gain leadership skills as they restore a green oasis for their community and inspire and educate their peers and neighbors. LA Audubon helped nearby Leo Politi Elementary obtain a Schoolyard Habitat Restoration Program grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to transform an unused patch of concrete and grass into a celebrated school bird habitat. Dorsey Greenhouse students taught Politi students how to determine soil type and locate the watershed to select native plants. Dorsey students assisted with installation of plants and trees, including six live oaks. The older students continue to mentor their younger counterparts in using their shared outdoor classroom. The garden has built a sense of community at Politi. Leo Politi's Principal credits projects-based science and peer-to-peer mentorship with improved science scores. Dorsey Teacher Robert Jeffers credits the Greenhouse Programs with pushing participants' college entry rate towards 100%. Partnering with Mother of Many (MOM) allows culinary arts students to share healthy eating tips with the community. LA Audubon helped Dorsey students educate the community about the drought with their Kill Your Lawn comic book. Students planted 60 trees on campus in collaboration with Disney, ABC Family, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and the Korean Youth & Community Center, bringing people together to beautify our community. In December 2014, students hosted CityPlants, a City-run fruit tree giveaway program, making fresh fruit available to residents in the community around the school.
- Dorsey takes an integrative, multi-disciplinary approach, leveraging local resources and developing the innovative partnerships and strategies described above to provide environmental and sustainability education. The program incorporates outdoor and experiential learning, green technology, STEAM, and career technical training into a comprehensive sustainability education and leadership development model for a diverse community. An overarching theme is community engagement, collaboration, and service.



Clockwise from bottom: Students accept the City Council's Eco Award; Students participate in the Aspen Challenge; Students collaborate with City Plants for a fruit tree giveaway; Students participate in the Couch to Kitchen book signing; Students restoring native plants.



Top to Bottom: Eco Club students visit Yosemite National Park; Eco Club students serve the community at a beach cleanup; Dorsey students are mentors to students at Leo Politi Elementary.