

THE LAUSD WASTE BASKET:



School supplies or a shopping spree? Are LAUSD credit cards a “free-for-all”?

A recent exposé by CBS Channel 2 news disclosed millions in personal items charged to LAUSD credit cards designed for the purchase of low-cost school-related items.

Unbelievable purchases

CBS unearthed a wide variety of highly suspect and unusual purchases including:

- \$451 — Sharper Image
- \$795 — yoga classes
- \$320 — day spa — Valley Village
- \$1,600 — U.S. postal service clothes & accessories
- \$221 — Restaurant Depot
- \$995 — flowers
- \$500 — coffee maker

Other charges included movie tickets, sporting events, a mattress, money transfers to Mexico, fishing tackle, stuffed animals and even a San Francisco cruise!

LAUSD inspector general finds fraud

In an audit conducted earlier this year, the LAUSD inspector general estimated \$4 million to \$5 million per month on credit cards with numerous examples of potential misuse and fraud. Even potentially appropriate merchandise purchases, such as computers, often couldn't be found at the schools.

District once again shows skewed priorities

Last year and again this year the District claims to have \$0 available for teacher salary increases. There appear to be plenty of available funds for sundries, but none for salaries. Just another example of the upside-down priorities of LAUSD.

Be our eyes and ears in the school and send in your examples of waste and mismanagement to wastebasket@utla.net. Teachers are held accountable for our actions. We want to know who will be held accountable for squandering school funds. If it is money that could be better spent on our classrooms and our students, we want to know about it. Your name and email address will be kept confidential.



Get mad. Get active. Get organized.

