



# Teacher accused of sex abuse of up to 20 children

LOS ANGELES (AP) – A Los Angeles elementary school teacher accused of sexually abusing 20 students and one adult was arrested Wednesday, police said.

Eight counts of continual sexual abuse and seven counts of lewd acts upon a child have been filed against Robert Pimental for abuse that took place at George De La Torre Jr. Elementary in the Wilmington area, police said.

In addition to the 15 felonies, misdemeanor charges are expected, said Officer Christopher No.

His bail has been set at \$12 million, and an arraignment date hasn't been set.

Pimental, 57, left his fourth-grade teaching position in March at the onset of the investigation. The LAUSD replaced the principal of George de la Torre Jr. Elementary shortly after opening an investigation into alleged sexual misconduct by what officials at the time would describe only as a "male teacher."

When officials learned of the allegations earlier this year they immediately removed him from campus and parents and state credentialing authorities were informed, school district spokesman Daryl Strickland said.

Parents and guardians will be told of the arrest by letter and phone, he said.

Pimental has worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1974.

There has been a number of high-profile incidences of Los Angeles teachers accused of sexually abusing students.

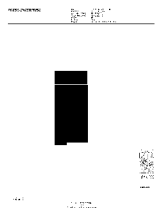
More than 225 parents and students are involved in various claims for damages against the district after Miramonte Elementary School teacher Mark Berndt was arrested a year ago and pleaded not guilty to 23 counts of lewd conduct.

Berndt is accused of feeding his students his semen on cookies and photographing them in classroom "tasting games."

In December, a jury ordered the district to pay a boy molested by an elementary school teacher \$6.9 million – among the largest awards in the history of the school system.

The jury found the district liable for the repeated molestation of the 10-year-old student in 2008 and 2009 by teacher Forrest Stobbe at Queen Anne Elementary School in the city's mid-Wilshire district.

The Los Angeles Times contributed to this report.



**LOS ANGELES**

**Teacher faces felony molestation charge**

A former teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District who has also worked as a soccer coach faces an additional felony molestation charge in relation to a case involving an Orange County child eight years ago.

The Los Angeles Times reports 57-year-old Robert Pimentel has already pleaded not guilty to 15 felony counts of lewd acts or continuous sexual abuse.

Police began investigating the George De La Torre Jr. Elementary School teacher in March 2012 a series of allegations stretching back to Sept. 2011.