



REL#09-132
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2009

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**State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Announces
25 California Schools are Awarded National Honor**

SACRAMENTO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today congratulated 25 California public schools that were named by the U.S. Department of Education as 2009 No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon Schools. The list of schools is attached.

“I am so proud that these 25 schools are receiving this prestigious national honor,” said O'Connell. “In spite of these extraordinarily challenging times of budget cuts, staff layoffs, and turmoil in our economy that are affecting our schools, the students at these schools show that if you keep on trying, you will succeed. Congratulations to all the schools, the students, their parents, teachers, school staff, and school boards. Their commitment to help these children succeed will help prepare them for the hypercompetitive jobs that await them.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program (BRSP) recognizes elementary and secondary schools that are both academically superior and have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement, while serving an economically disadvantaged population of students. Schools recognized through the BRSP are national models of excellence for other schools to emulate. All of the 2009 nominees were either previous California Distinguished Schools or California Title I Academic Achieving Award schools.

In order to be eligible for BRSP consideration, a California public school must have:

- Met all of its state targets under the 2007 Academic Performance Index (API), which is California's accountability model; and all the targets under Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which is the federal accountability model. The targets

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must be met for the school overall and for each numerically significant subgroup, such as socioeconomically disadvantaged children, English learners, and children of color.

- A 2007 Base API rank of 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10. A rank of 10 means the school performs in the top 10 percent of all schools.
- Met all of its 2008 API and AYP targets, including those for the school overall and for each numerically significant subgroup.
- Demonstrated significant growth in the percent of students achieving the proficient/advanced level in English-language arts and mathematics from 2004 to 2008. This growth is based on the performance of the students in the highest grade at the school. For example, in a kindergarten to grade six elementary school, this growth would be measured by comparing the performance of sixth grade students in 2004 to sixth grade students tested in 2008.

For final BRSP certification, a school must also meet all of its 2009 API and AYP targets, including those for the school overall and for each numerically significant subgroup.

Because BRSP is part of the federal NCLB law, schools with a large population of disadvantaged students that have either shown dramatic improvement in student achievement from 2004 to 2008 or schools that have maintained a superior level of achievement from 2004 to 2008 are given priority for selection in this program. The U.S. Department of Education designates a public school as “disadvantaged” if 40 percent or more of the students: (a) participate in the National School Lunch Program; (b) have parents who did not earn a high school diploma; (c) receive Migrant Education services; or (d) are classified as English learners.

The U.S. Secretary of Education has administered BRSP for more than 25 years to recognize outstanding schools. The nominees will be honored in Washington, D.C. on November 2-4 in a series of events hosted by the Secretary and his staff. For more information on BRSP and to review a list of 2009 winners nationwide, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>.

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Attachment

2009 No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon Schools

County	District	School
El Dorado	Placerville Union Elementary	Sierra Elementary
Fresno	Fresno Unified	Bullard Talent Project
Fresno	Fresno Unified	Edison Computech
Fresno	Fresno Unified	Manchester Gate
Fresno	Sanger Unified	John S. Wash Elementary
Humboldt	Arcata Elementary	Sunny Brae Middle
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	Clifford Street Elementary
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	Danube Avenue Elementary
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	Delevan Drive Elementary
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	Hamlin Street Elementary
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	One Hundred Fifty-Sixth Street Elementary
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Unified	Solano Avenue Elementary
Los Angeles	Pasadena Unified	Hamilton Elementary
Los Angeles	West Covina Unified	San Jose-Edison Academy
Orange	Garden Grove Unified	John Murdy Elementary
Orange	Santa Ana Unified	Middle College High
Sacramento	Twin Rivers Unified	Frontier Elementary
San Bernardino	San Bernardino City Unified	Richardson Prep Hi
San Bernardino	Victor Elementary	Sixth Street Prep
San Diego	San Diego Unified	Ericson Elementary
San Diego	San Diego Unified	Fletcher Elementary
San Diego	San Diego Unified	Florence Elementary
San Francisco	San Francisco Unified	Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary
San Francisco	San Francisco Unified	Edward R. Taylor Elementary
Tuolumne	Curtis Creek Elementary	Sullivan Creek Elementary

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The California Department of Education is a state agency led by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. The core purpose of CDE is to lead and support the continuous improvement of student achievement, with a specific focus on closing achievement gaps. For more information, please visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov> or by mobile device at <http://m.cde.ca.gov/>. You may also follow Superintendent O'Connell (@SSPIJack) on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/sspijack>.

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