

Distinguished Elementary Schools

California School Recognition Program Distinguished School honorees in Contra Costa County **Schools Chief O'Connell Announces 2006 California Distinguished Schools**

Sacramento – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today announced that a record 377 California public elementary schools have been selected **as 2006 California Distinguished Schools**. Chosen from 190 school districts in 40 counties, the schools represent the largest number of elementary school awardees in the 21-year history of the California School Recognition Program and were selected from the largest number of eligible elementary schools to date.

"These schools are the best of the best. They share a vision of excellence and they have brought that vision to life," said O'Connell, who called each school principal on Monday to personally give them the good news. "Hearing the excitement and the pride in their voices was incredible. These deserving school leaders and their teachers, staffs, and students have worked extremely hard to achieve academic success and this recognition. "From listening to their stories, it is obvious they are all deeply committed to ensuring their children have every opportunity to learn. They are truly examples of excellence," he said.

The California School Recognition Program is extending its year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary to elementary schools in 2006. The California School Recognition Program was created in 1985 to publicize and reinforce the priorities of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program identifies and honors some of the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. Although participation is voluntary, the award is highly sought after by schools in all areas of the state.

Approximately 5 percent of California's public schools are selected each year, and no fewer than 40 counties are typically represented. Elementary and secondary schools are recognized during alternate years. Of the more than 5,000 elementary schools in the state, 2,043 were eligible to apply for the Distinguished School honor based upon their Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results. The 997 schools that filed applications this year underwent a rigorous selection process conducted by the California Department of Education (CDE) in partnership with the California County Superintendents Education Services Association (CCSESA), and with the help of many local educators from across the state.

The 377 awardees for 2006 represent the largest number of elementary schools ever selected, topping the 302 elementary school awardees in 2004, the last elementary school cycle.

County	School District	School	
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Ayers Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Gregory Gardens Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Hidden Valley Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Monte Gardens Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Mt. Diablo Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Valle Verde Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	Mt. Diablo Unified	Woodside Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	San Ramon Valley Unified	Bollinger Canyon Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	San Ramon Valley Unified	Greenbrook Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	San Ramon Valley Unified	Montair Elementary	Elementary
Contra Costa	San Ramon Valley Unified	Tassajara Hills Elementary	Elementary