PRESS RELEASE
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Lowell High and Presidio Middle Schools Named California Distinguished Schools for 2013

April 10, 2013 (San Francisco) - State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson today named Lowell High and Presidio Middle Schools as California Distinguished Schools. They are among only 218 public middle and high schools to be recognized for their strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student academic achievement.

The 2013 California Distinguished Schools Program directly focuses on the right of California's students to an equitable and rigorous education, and recognizes those schools that have made progress in narrowing the academic achievement gap.

"These schools have gone the extra mile to provide high-quality instruction that puts their students on the right path toward career and college," Torlakson said. “Given the enormous challenges schools have faced in recent years, it is inspiring to see this kind of success in so many schools. Our future depends on meeting the needs of every student no matter where they come from or where they live.”

To apply for Distinguished School honors, schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria, including accountability measures. Once schools are deemed eligible, the California Department of Education (CDE) invites them to apply to be recognized as a California Distinguished School.

The entire list of schools can be found at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/yr13distschools.asp

The application process consists of a written application, which includes a comprehensive description of two of the school's signature practices, and a county-led site validation review process, which validates the implementation of those signature practices.

Elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternate years. For more information please go to the California Distinguished Schools Program<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/> Web site.

Schools earning the Distinguished School title agree to share their signature practices with other schools and become a mentor to those seeking to replicate their work. An updated searchable database of these Signature Practices will be available later this spring from the CDE. To view the current Signature Practices Web site, please visit the Distinguished Schools Signature Practices<http://www3.cde.ca.gov/signaturepractices/default.aspx> page.

Schools selected as California Distinguished Schools will be honored in May during regional award ceremonies where Torlakson will present each school with a 2013 Distinguished School plaque and flag.

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