



PRESS RELEASE
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Nine SFUSD Schools Named California Distinguished Schools for 2014

April 30, 2014 (San Francisco) - State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced today that nine SFUSD schools will be recognized as California Distinguished Schools. They are among 424 public elementary schools in California to be recognized for their strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student academic achievement.

The 2014 California Distinguished Schools Program focuses on California's students' right to an equitable and rigorous education, and recognizes those schools that have made progress in narrowing the academic achievement gap.

The SFUSD 2014 California Distinguished Schools are:

- Chinese Immersion School at DeAvila (also received Arts Exemplary Program Award)
- Clarendon Elementary
- Grattan Elementary
- Gordon J. Lau Elementary
- Lawton (K-8)
- Claire Lilienthal (K-8)
- McKinley Elementary
- Sunnyside Elementary
- West Portal Elementary

In addition to being chosen as a Distinguished School, Chinese Immersion School at DeAvila received an Arts Exemplary Program award after undergoing a separate application process.

"I am very proud of these award winning schools for the incredible work they do every day," said Superintendent Richard A. Carranza. "Receipt of this recognition represents not only the great learning that is happening for our students but also the initiative each of these schools has taken to document and share their practices with others."

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.

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 portal, please visit the [Distinguished Schools Signature Practices](#) web page.

Elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternate years. For more information, please go to the [California Distinguished Schools Program](#) web page. Schools selected as California Distinguished Schools will be honored in early June during regional award ceremonies.

“I applaud these strong, thriving schools that are making such impressive strides in preparing their students for continued success,” Torlakson said. “This award is well-deserved by these school communities for their enduring dedication to high standards, hard work, and unwavering support.”

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