PRESS RELEASE
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Ulloa Elementary Earns National Blue Ribbon Distinction

September 15, 2011 (San Francisco) – Ulloa Elementary School has been named by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2011. It is one of only 305 schools in the nation to be selected this year.

The distinction is based on a school’s overall academic excellence or for its success in closing achievement gaps.

“We are thrilled to receive this prestigious award,” says Ulloa Principal Carol Fong. “This is due to the hard work of our team of teachers, and parents and, most of all, the students of Ulloa.”

U.S Secretary of Education Arne Duncan commented on the importance of Blue Ribbon schools. “America’s long-term economic prosperity and civic engagement depends on our children receiving a world-class education. National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow.”

The National Blue Ribbon School award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve at high levels or where the achievement gap is narrowing. Since 2003, four other SFUSD schools have been recognized: Yick Wo Elementary (2005), John Yehall Chin (2005), R.L Stevenson (2009), and E.R Taylor (2009)

In 2008, Ulloa Elementary was selected as a California Distinguished School, and has earned the Title I Academic Achievement Award for seven consecutive years.

All 256 public and 49 private schools will be honored for their National Blue Ribbon School awards at a conference and awards ceremony Nov. 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, honors public and private schools based on one of two criteria: 1) Schools whose students are high performing. These are schools ranked among each state’s highest performing schools as measured by their performance on state assessments or, in the case of private schools, that score at the highest performance level on nationally-normed tests; or 2) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that improve student performance to high levels as measured by the school’s performance on state assessments or nationally-normed tests.
Before selecting National Blue Ribbon Schools, the Department asks for nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 413 schools nationwide are nominated, based on the number of K-12 students and the number of schools in each jurisdiction. The schools are invited by the Secretary of Education to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.


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