



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 2, 2015

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and Elementary School Principals:

2016 CALIFORNIA GOLD RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD PROGRAM

I am pleased to announce the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award Program which is one of the many ways that the California Department of Education (CDE) and I celebrate outstanding educational programs and practices through our California School Recognition Program.

Presented by California Casualty, the California School Recognition Program includes awards programs honoring exemplary students, teachers, classified employees, and schools for advancing excellence in education.

The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award Program was created to honor schools while the California Distinguished Schools Program is on hiatus as California transitions to new assessment and accountability systems. Last year, we recognized 193 middle schools and 180 high schools as Gold Ribbon School Award recipients. This year we will honor elementary schools.

This award recognizes California schools who have made exceptional gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education for all students, including English learners. These include, but are not limited to, the California Standards for English Language Arts, California English Language Development Standards, California State Standards for Mathematics, and the Next Generation Science Standards.

I encourage elementary schools to apply for this award through a self-nominating process that is based upon a Model Program/Practice at their school. Model programs should include standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that schools have adopted and that can be replicated by other local education agencies.

Schools that apply for the California Gold Ribbon Schools Award are also eligible to apply for Exemplary Program awards. Schools may apply for one or more awards in Arts Education, and/or Physical Activity and Nutrition Education. Applying for these additional exemplary awards is optional.

An Intent to Apply form is required and must be submitted by **Friday, October 16, 2015**.

Applications for the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award Program and any

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exemplary programs must be **postmarked on or before Friday, November 20, 2015**, in order to be eligible for consideration.

Information about the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program, including the Intent to Apply form, application, and instructions, is available on the CDE School Recognition Web page at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/gr/.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Cynthia Henninger, California Gold Ribbon Schools Program Coordinator, Awards Team, Superintendent's Initiatives Office, by phone at 916-319-0842 or by e-mail at awards@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

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