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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **OUSD Schools Participate in the Great California Shakeout**

ORANGE, Calif., October 15, 2009 – Today at 10:15 A.M. schools throughout the Orange Unified School District participated in the “Great Southern California ShakeOut,” the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history. There were more than 6.8 million Californians registered to participate in the ShakeOut drill. With earthquakes an inevitable part of southern California’s future, Californians must act quickly to ensure that disasters do not become catastrophes. With this in mind, the Earthquake Country Alliance has organized the Great Southern California ShakeOut. The purpose of the ShakeOut is to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes, and to get prepared at work, school and home.

Mike Pollok, Coordinator, Child, Welfare and Attendance, provided this communication to all principals. “This event has created awareness and an opportunity for our schools to be prepared. Our next step will be to include other public safety agencies in the future,” said Pollok.

A major Earthquake could cause an unprecedented catastrophe. The ShakeOut drill centers on the southern earthquake scenario, a realistic portrayal of what could happen in a major earthquake on the southern end of the San Andreas Fault. The drill outlines a hypothetical 7.8 magnitude earthquake which would potentially devastate the region.

OUSD principals met with their staffs and all students to prepare them on how to perform the Drop, Cover and Hold Drill, a quake safe action designed to protect lives and prevent injuries from falling furniture and flying objects. Staff and students evacuated their buildings according to the schools disaster plan. For more information please visit the Great Southern California ShakeOut website at [www.shakeout.org/schools/](http://www.shakeout.org/schools/).

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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