



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Katherine Topor, Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487

Orange Unified Student Achievement Excels

ORANGE, California, August 31, 2011 – Superintendent of Schools, Michael L. Christensen, announced today that a record number of schools in Orange Unified School District (OUSD) met or exceeded the State Academic Performance Index (API) targets. The District API grew 17 points from 806 to 823. This 17-point growth is the greatest gain for a K-12 Unified School District in Orange County. In addition, Prospect Elementary School API grew 69 points to 752, distinguishing the school as the greatest growth on API for a single school in Orange County. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the OUSD elementary and secondary schools met the school-wide API growth target. (See Table 1)

Mr. Christensen stated, “I congratulate all our students, teachers, parents, administrators and school employees who are working hard every day to make a difference in the lives of students. In Orange USD, our students continue to excel and meet high standards despite the statewide budget cuts. Thanks to the cooperation and collaboration of our employee associations and leadership of our School Board, we have maintained the focus on student achievement and improving the quality of instruction.”

In addition, OUSD had impressive achievement gains on the federal indicator, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Both the API and AYP results are drawn from individual student results on the statewide Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program that comprise the 2011 Accountability Progress Report. The AYP targets are based on the percentage of students reaching proficient and advanced levels in specific subgroups. In 2011, OUSD saw increases in all subgroups with the Special Education subgroup demonstrating the largest gain of 12% more students proficient and advanced in Mathematics and 9.7% more in English Language Arts. The English Learner Subgroup also demonstrated 10% more students proficient and advanced in Mathematics. The District schools recently initiated the process of Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTI²), which includes a focus on teacher collaboration and identifying individual student learning needs.

Orange High School Principal, Ernie Gonzalez, stated, “Student test results are the hard work of the entire school community. Students and teachers have focused on the curriculum standards, and most importantly everyone is excited about the collaboration to improve student learning.” Orange High School posted the fourth (4th) highest passing gains in Orange County on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in English Language Arts growing from 71% to 78.8% passing percentage. Orange High also demonstrated a 20-point gain on the API.

Additional information presented in the OUSD release of student results includes the Program Improvement (PI) schools that have met all AYP growth criteria that may potentially exit Program Improvement. Schools must meet State AYP criteria for two years in a row to exit program improvement. The following schools met all Federal AYP criteria in 2011:

- Handy Elementary, Sandy Schaffer, Principal
- Jordan Elementary, Andrea Roman, Principal
- Prospect Elementary, Elena Rodriguez, Principal
- Sycamore Elementary, Erika Krohn, Principal
- Fairhaven Elementary, Kelli Keller, Principal (Exited PI in 2010, Continues to meet AYP)

Prospect Principal, Elena Rodriguez, stated, “Staff and students were very involved all year in tracking student learning goals, and there was on-going celebration for student achievement throughout the school year in many indicators. We also targeted our resources and time to support interventions for students who required additional assistance.” Prospect Elementary met all AYP targets for all significant subgroups.

The California Department of Education (CDE) link to the 2011 Accountability Progress Report for the Orange Unified School District achievement results in API and AYP can be found at www.cde.ca.gov.

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

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**Orange Unified School District
2011 Growth API Score**

	2010 Base API	2011 Target	2011 Growth API	Growth	Met Target
Orange Unified	806	B	823	17	Yes
High Schools					
Canyon High	846	A	849	3	Yes
El Modena High	805	A	820	15	Yes
Orange High	685	6(691)	705	20	Yes
Richland Continuation High	561	B	590	29	B
Villa Park High	809	A	815	6	Yes
Middle Schools					
Cerro Villa Middle	833	A	831	-2	Yes
El Rancho Charter Middle	895	A	921	26	Yes
Portola Middle	734	5(739)	737	3	No
Santiago Middle Charter	806	A	816	10	Yes
Yorba Middle	705	5(710)	740	35	Yes
Elementary Schools					
Anaheim Hills Elem	893	A	898	5	Yes
California Elem	785	5(790)	796	11	Yes
Cambridge Elem	765	5(770)	792	27	Yes
Canyon Rim Elem	882	A	880	-2	Yes
Chapman Hills Elem	925	A	935	10	Yes
Crescent Elem	917	A	909	-8	Yes
Esplanade Elem	774	5(779)	797	23	Yes
Fairhaven Elem	751	5(756)	768	17	Yes
Fletcher Elem	726	5(731)	759	33	Yes
Handy Elem	729	5(734)	784	55	Yes
Imperial Elem	896	A	917	21	Yes
Jordan Elem	779	5(784)	817	38	Yes
La Veta Elem	809	A	813	4	Yes
Lampson Elem	716	5(721)	745	29	Yes
Linda Vista Elem	897	A	904	7	Yes
McPherson	883	A	909	26	Yes
Nohl Canyon Elem	937	A	944	7	Yes
Olive Elem	793	5(798)	784	-9	No
Palmyra Elem	771	5(776)	809	38	Yes
Panorama Elem	928	A	935	7	Yes
Prospect Elem	683	6(689)	752	69	Yes
Running Spring Elem	894	A	913	19	Yes
Serrano Elem	911	A	918	7	Yes
Sycamore Elem	701	5(706)	749	48	Yes
Taft Elem	762	5(767)	792	30	Yes
Villa Park Elem	916	A	912	-4	Yes
West Orange Elem	806	A	815	9	Yes

"A" means the school scored at or above the statewide performance target of 800 in 2010.

"B" means this is either an LEA or an Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) school. Schools participating in the ASAM do not currently receive growth, target information, or statewide or similar schools rankings on this report in recognition of their markedly different educational missions and populations served. ASAM schools are covered under the Alternative Accountability system as required by *Education Code* Section 52052 and not the API accountability system. However, API information is needed to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Growth, target, and rank information are not applicable to LEAs.

"C" means this is a special education school. Statewide and similar schools ranks and API growth targets are not applicable to special education schools.

"D" means this is either an LEA or special education school. Target information is not applicable to LEAs, ASAM schools, or special education schools.

*This report does not include small schools: Home school, CDS, or Canyon Hills.