



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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

Fairhaven Elementary Nominated for National Blue Ribbon School

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, the students, staff, and families of Fairhaven Elementary were welcomed with the exciting news of a National Blue Ribbon School nomination. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced the selection of only 35 schools in the State of California to be named for this distinction. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes the highest performing and most improved schools in the nation. The Program acknowledges schools within the country that model best practices for both teaching and learning.

Fairhaven Elementary falls within the category of an "Exemplary Improving School" based on five consecutive years of student achievement gains. "Exemplary Improving Schools" are schools among the top 10 percent in the state showing the greatest improvement in the percent of students scoring proficient or advanced in English Language Arts and Mathematics on the state assessments over the last five years, with at least 40 percent of their students from a disadvantaged background.

Principal Kelli Keller stated, "Fairhaven Elementary is thrilled to celebrate the hard work of our school's learning teams and ready to accept the challenge of proving that *all* students can meet *and* exceed learning expectations!"

This nomination will begin an intensive application process which will culminate with the State Testing and Reporting System (STAR) results from this spring. Students must continue to make gains in the 2011—2012 school year and meet Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) to earn this prestigious recognition of excellence.

Superintendent Michael Christensen stated, "This is truly a reflection of the dedication and hard work of the community at Fairhaven Elementary. Teachers and students are putting a great deal of energy into teaching and learning. I am so proud of this nomination for Orange Unified, as I know the parents of Fairhaven are also proud of their school."

The National BRSP is part of a larger U. S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. For more information on the federal program, please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>

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

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