



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658
707.399.4400 ★ www.solanocoe.net

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Organization: Solano County Office of Education
Contact: Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent
Telephone: 707-399-4432
E-Mail: vromualdi@solanocoe.net

Six Solano County Schools Selected for 2017 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award Recognition

FAIRFIELD –Six Solano County secondary schools have been selected by the California Department of Education (CDE) to be recognized with the prestigious California Gold Ribbon Schools award.

The following schools received this distinction:

Benicia High School, Benicia Unified School District
Benicia Middle School, Benicia Unified School District
Armijo High School, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Green Valley Middle School, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Public Safety Academy, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Elise P. Buckingham Charter Magnet High School, Vacaville Unified School District

Benicia Middle School received an additional award for being a Title I Academic Achieving School. The Gold Ribbon Schools being recognized for Exemplary Programs in Arts Education, Physical Education and Nutrition will be announced soon.

To be invited to apply for the Gold Ribbon School honor, schools must meet a variety of rigorous eligibility criteria based on the submission of an application, including a comprehensive description of the school's signature practices, and a successful application review. Over 1,200 applications were reviewed for completeness by teams of educators from across the state under the direction of the CDE. Applications deemed complete moved forward in the process. The Solano County Office of Education conducted coordinated site validation visits as required by the CDE. "This is a tremendous honor and well-deserved recognition for these schools. They are shining examples of the great work going on in schools throughout Solano County," said Solano County Superintendent, Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

According to Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs and Educational Services, "These schools are excellent examples of best practices designed to promote learning and meaningful engagement for all students." The CDE reports that nearly 6,000 schools were eligible to apply for the recognition this year, 12 from Solano County. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced that a total of 275 middle and high schools will be recognized during regional ceremonies later this month.

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In addition to the Gold Ribbon Schools honors, schools and educators in Solano County have been recognized for their work. Mare Island Technology Academy in Vallejo was recognized for their academic excellence and social equity for students and received the California 2017 “Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage” Model Middle Schools award from State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. Travis Education Center, in the Travis Unified School District (TUSD) received the 2017 Model Continuation High Schools award for operating an innovative academic program that helps to prepare students for 21st century careers and college. The recipient of the Milken Educator Award went to Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD) teacher, Jessica Villanueva, making history as the first recipient in her district to receive this award.

