



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway Unified School District awarded California Department of Education’s “Pivotal Practice Award” Nine PUSD schools also receive individual recognition

(San Diego, CA) – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced the winners of the 2022 California Pivotal Practice Award Program this week. The award recognizes both individual sites and school districts for the implementation of innovative programs and practices during distance learning. Poway Unified School District (PUSD) was awarded both district recognition as well as individual school site recognition for nine of its elementary schools.

The California Pivotal Practice Award Program (CAPP) is being utilized by California in 2022 in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program. CAPP celebrates schools and districts that implemented an innovative practice during the 2020-21 school year, when California required schools to offer distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The award takes into consideration four areas: student engagement, distribution of technology, nutrition services, and social emotional well-being of students. When faced with the shift to distance learning in March 2020, PUSD took a proactive, equity-based approach to distributing technology to over 35,000 students, providing innovative and timely professional learning to staff, and providing resources, support, and outreach to families.

In addition to Poway Unified being awarded, the following PUSD sites were individually recognized with this award for their innovative practices:

- ❖ **Adobe Bluffs Elementary School**
- ❖ **Creekside Elementary School**
- ❖ **Deer Canyon Elementary School**
- ❖ **Midland Elementary School**
- ❖ **Monterey Ridge Elementary School**
- ❖ **Pomerado Elementary School**
- ❖ **Tierra Bonita Elementary School**
- ❖ **Valley Elementary School**
- ❖ **Willow Grove Elementary School**

PUSD Superintendent Marian Kim Phelps said, “I was extremely proud of Team PUSD’s ability to quickly transition online in April 2020 and provide a high-quality virtual learning experience in such a short period of time. It was a monumental team effort, and the fact that our schools and District were able to continue innovating and meeting students’ and families’ need throughout the pandemic speaks to the dedication, creativity, and tenacity of our educators.”

Poway Unified is one of 121 school districts honored in California. 727 individual sites from California were honored. For a complete list of honorees and more details about the CAPP awards program, [click here](#).

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