



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway Unified: Black Mountain Middle School Named 2021 California Distinguished School

(Sacramento, CA) – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond recently announced that **Black Mountain Middle School** in the Poway Unified School District is one of only nine schools in San Diego and 100 schools in California that are being honored as part of the 2021 California Distinguished Schools Program.



Black Mountain Middle School logo

The California Department of Education (CDE) identifies and awards eligible schools based on performance and progress on state indicators that are outlined on the California School Dashboard. These include test scores, suspension rates, and overall school conditions and climate. Specifically, the Distinguished Schools Program celebrates schools for their work in one of two categories: closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance. According to the CDE, distinguished schools serve as examples of excellent teaching, learning and collaboration that yield highly successful, data-driven results. More information about the categories and award eligibility can be found [here](#).

“It’s amazing, but no surprise to me,” said Principal Scott Corso. “This is because of our bright students, our incredibly supportive families, and our talented, dedicated staff and educators. When times have been at their toughest, Black Mountain Middle School has been at our best.”

BMMS will be formally recognized with this esteemed award at a virtual ceremony. The CDE has yet to announce the ceremony date.

About the CA Distinguished Schools Program

The California Distinguished Schools Program honors some of California’s most exemplary and inspiring public schools. Schools that are selected demonstrate significant gains in narrowing the overall achievement gap, according to the CDE website. This program recognizes elementary and secondary schools in alternate years.

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