

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 S. Peck Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Carolyn Seaton, Executive Director, Human Resources
Manhattan Beach Unified School District
310-318-7345 ext. 5915

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MBUSD Recognized as a 2016 California Green Ribbon Schools Award Winner

Manhattan Beach, CA, March 1, 2016

On Friday, February 26, 2016, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson nominated three California school districts and two individual schools to compete in the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition program, which honors schools that conserve resources while promoting health and environmental literacy.

The nominees include:

- Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles County
- Manhattan Beach Unified School District, Los Angeles County
- San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco County
- Bay Farm School, Alameda, Alameda County
- Bishop O'Dowd High School (private), Oakland, Alameda County

The schools and districts were also named "Green Achievers," the highest honor in the California Green Ribbon Schools recognition program.

"I commend these schools and districts for reducing their environmental footprints and engaging students using sustainability and the environment as the context for learning," Torlakson said. "Their efforts are helping to build healthier, more resilient communities and a more prosperous California."

The announcement came at a news conference at Bay Farm School in the Alameda Unified School District. Torlakson was joined by Dr. Ron Reynolds, Executive Director of the California Association of Private School Organizations (CAPSO).

Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate exemplary achievement in three "pillars." Pillar I: reduce environmental impact and costs; Pillar II: improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and Pillar III: provide effective environmental education that teaches many disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, civic skills, and green career pathways.

The California Green Ribbon Schools recognition award uses the applications submitted for nomination to ED-GRS to recognize schools and school districts for environmental excellence.

California is one of 25 states as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity that are expected to nominate schools and districts for federal recognition this year. Continued participation and leadership in the program is a recommendation of Torlakson's Environmental Literacy Task Force. The U.S. Department of Education will confirm state nominees on Earth Day, April 22, 2016.

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District has documented a 33 percent reduction in non-transportation energy use and a 44 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from a 2009 baseline. All MBUSD schools are ENERGY STAR certified, with six of the schools earning a perfect score of 100. MBUSD diverts food waste at six of its seven sites by combining composting with a Waste Management program that converts food waste into Engineered Bioslurry used to generate energy. MBUSD was the first district to pilot and implement the parent-initiated programs [Grades of Green](#) and [Growing Great](#). MBUSD has installed solar energy panels at Mira Costa High School, and is replacing all lights with highly efficient LED lighting. No idling policies, Walk to School Wednesdays, and Trash Free Lunches are among the many initiatives designed to keep the focus on the environment in MBUSD. MBUSD custodians use sustainable, non-toxic, and environmentally friendly cleaning products. MBUSD's Green Committee has representatives from all schools sharing ideas and working together to be increasingly green. MBUSD earned a CA-GRS Silver Level Award in 2015, and Grand View Elementary School was recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School in 2012.

Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent of MBUSD, stated, "I am so proud of the efforts that our students, staff, and parents have made to make us a true national green leader. I thank the students, staff, and parents at Grand View Elementary for leading the way with their award in 2012. I am so grateful for the efforts of our custodial and maintenance staff. Changing their protocols and products was not at all easy, but it is making a big difference for our students and our community. So many of our teachers have helped students to be more conscious of their environment. The parents of MBUSD have been spectacular, and we could not have done this work without their leadership. We have amazing partners in Waste Management, the City of Manhattan Beach, Grades of Green, and Growing Great. Most of all, thank you to all of the students who take a little extra time to be green and make a better future life for themselves and others."

Cathey Graves, MBUSD PTSA District President, added, "The leadership of our PTAs and PTSAs at each site was critical in the greening of MBUSD. We have Green Representatives at each site who work with parents, students, and school employees to make green happen. Congratulations to the entire MBUSD community. The PTA is proud to have played a role in achieving this award and making our district and our community a better place to live."

For more information on the California Award Program, please visit the California Department of Education's [Green Ribbon Schools Award Program](#) Web page and download [A Blueprint for Environmental Literacy: Educating Every Student In, About, and For the Environment](#).

ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Manhattan Beach Unified School District is one of the highest performing unified school districts in the State of California. MBUSD has received awards for excellence in the arts, athletics and in sustainability. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation (MBEF), the Manhattan Beach Extra Foundation (MBX), the City of Manhattan Beach, and many other business partnerships. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.