



PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rialto Unified School District
182 East Walnut Avenue Rialto, Ca. 92376
Syeda Jafri, Director of Communications
Office (909) 820-7700, ext. 2123 sjafri@rialto.k12.ca.us

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Dollahan, Myers Elementary Schools Earn California Gold Ribbon Awards!

RIALTO – Got State? We do.

The Rialto Unified School District is proud to honor the staff members of **Helen L. Dollahan Elementary School** and **W. A. Myers Elementary School** for earning the State's *Gold Ribbon School* distinctions.

The Gold Ribbon awards recognize California schools that have made gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. These include: the California Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, California English Language Development Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.

Schools applied for the award based on a model program their school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies.

Dollahan and Myers elementary schools were among the 772 statewide schools that received Gold Ribbon awards, according to the California Department of Education (CDE).

Upon hearing the news, positive energy and joy vibrated through both school sites and the District.

"I am ecstatic to be a part of the Dollahan family and to achieve the recognition of a California Gold Ribbon School," smiled Dollahan Elementary School Principal, **Daniel Husbands**. "It is such a huge honor for our students, staff members, parents, and community to be recognized for all of their hard work and dedication to building the next generation of leaders through *The Leader in Me* process."

Dollahan Elementary School fifth grade teacher, **David Emrick**, added, "As a teacher here for several years, I have seen an incredible amount of commitment to student learning and development from all areas of our community. Our secretaries, custodians, various support staff, teachers, administrators, parents, and local businesses have truly collaborated to make our school worthy of our Gold Ribbon status. We are extremely grateful to be recognized with this honor and vow to continue the effort to create a superb learning environment for all of our students."

Myers Elementary School was equally excited about the news from the State.

"This award serves as testament to the unwavering dedication exuded by our teachers for all of our students. In the midst of academic reform, our teachers took the initiative to press forward and create a sacred place for learning and discovering. Our teachers adopted the 21st Century skills of Communication and Collaboration. They have taken on the challenge to define and implement the distinct characteristics of this school-wide approach to create college and career bound students. Our accomplishment would not have been possible without the support of our parents, staff members, students, and community volunteers. It is an honor to have been bestowed this prestigious award," stated Myers Elementary School Principal, **Johanna Cuellar**.

Teresa Chandler, second grade teacher, at Myers Elementary School, cheered, "It is truly an exciting event on many levels for me as an educator. It validates all the energy that we extend daily as a cohesive team of teachers, administrators, and support staff to help each of our students reaches their unique and maximum

potential as individuals. As an educator, such a road taken at times may be stony and difficult, but it is without doubt a magical journey!”

The Gold Ribbon designation is temporarily taking the place of the Distinguished School program because of changes to the State’s accountability and assessment systems.

“These schools shine as bright beacons for others, putting forth an exemplary effort to ensure that every student is ready for 21st Century college and careers,” stated State Superintendent of Instruction, Tom Torlakson in his CDE press release. “California teachers are developing an education model for the nation, training the students of today to be problem-solvers, inventors and pioneers of tomorrow.”

Last July, Superintendent, **Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila**, made it a priority to visit each of the 1,040 classrooms in the RUSD, by September.

“I observed many of the amazing things that happen in classrooms on a daily basis, and wanted to make sure that the implementation of the programs and rigor that our teachers and students were mastering needed to be recognized in a larger arena, so I encouraged the application process,” stated Dr. Avila. “Today, I join the Board of Education and our entire District in applauding the efforts of these two exceptional schools’ academic accomplishments. We are extremely proud of this honor for both schools. However, this is not the end of our success story, this is the beginning.”

Rialto Unified School District Board of Education will formally honor Dollahan and Myers Elementary Schools on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 7:00 p.m., at the televised public school board meeting held at 182 East Walnut Avenue in Rialto.

The CDE will formally hold its California School Recognition Awards regional ceremony on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 3:30 p.m. at the Anaheim Hilton.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office will hold its ceremony on Monday, June 13, 2016, with time and location, to be determined.

RUSD: “Today’s Scholars, Tomorrow’s Leaders”