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## **FUSD & Four Schools Among 2019 California Distinguished Schools & Exemplary Districts**

(Sacramento, CA, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019) – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that the Fremont Unified School District’s (FUSD) American High School, Kennedy High School, Mission San Jose High School and Hopkins Junior High School are among the 162 middle and high schools being honored under the 2019 Distinguished Schools Program. Sponsored by the California Department of Education and California Casualty, the program recognizes outstanding education programs and practices. Schools are awarded for achieving exceptional student performance for two consecutive school years or closing the achievement gap between two school years.

In addition, FUSD was chosen as a 2019 California Exemplary District – one of 18 from across the state. The District was nominated by the Alameda County Office of Education for creating a strategic plan to support homeless students. After only one year of focused intervention, FUSD was able to significantly increase homeless students’ graduation rates while simultaneously decreasing their suspensions and expulsions. Providing greater opportunities to FUSD’s neediest student population demonstrates the district’s continued commitment to educational equity.

“I would like to commend these schools for fighting for a better future for our students, closing achievement gaps, and improving academic performance,” Thurmond said. “Thanks to teachers, administrators, classified employees, and parents working together, these schools meet the needs of all of their students, provide high-quality educational experiences, and put kids on a pathway to great careers.”

“We are incredibly proud of this recognition and the great run of success our schools have demonstrated throughout the history of the Distinguished Schools Program,” added FUSD Superintendent, Dr. Kim Wallace. “The designation of our four schools – and the District as a whole - is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the students and staff representing each school community.”

A component of the California School Recognition Program, the Distinguished Schools program recognizes elementary and middle and high schools in alternate years and allows eligible schools

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to apply once every two years. Schools recognized as awardees hold the title for two years. Schools that applied were eligible based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as described on the California School Dashboard. Indicators include test scores, suspension rates, and graduation rates. Schools were also eligible to apply for a California Exemplary Program Award in Arts Education, Physical Activity and Nutrition Education, or Career Technical Education—which will be announced at a later time.

Distinguished School award winners represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly successful school climate efforts ranging from real-time conflict resolution to positive behavior intervention. For more information, please visit the [California Distinguished Schools Program](#) on the California Department of Education's website.

**About FUSD:** The Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) is made up of 42 schools serving nearly 35,000 students in grades K-12. With 16 National Merit Scholars, two National Blue Ribbon Schools and nine 'California Distinguished Schools' named in 2018, FUSD's mission is to provide equitable opportunities to Educate, Challenge and Inspire students of all ages, talents and ability levels, while striving to prepare each with the skills required to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing world. FUSD is located in the City of Fremont, California, a thriving international community. Residents come from countries across the globe to call Fremont home. FUSD takes pride in its diversity, its community, and in its schools. Visit the District's website at [www.fremont.k12.ca.us](http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) pages for more information.

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