



Just for the Kids
California

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CONTACT: JIM LANICH
(916) 498-8980

CBEE and Just for the Kids-California Name 911 California Public Schools to 2008 Honor Roll

California Business Community Recognizes Outstanding Public Schools for Superior Student Academic Achievement and Reducing Achievement Gaps

Sacramento -- California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) and Just for the Kids-California (JFTK-CA) announced today the schools named to their 2008 Honor Roll. Honor Roll schools are named annually.

The 2008 Honor Roll includes 911 California public elementary, middle and high schools that have been recognized by California's business community for having demonstrated consistent high student academic achievement and have made significant progress toward closing achievement gaps among all their students. The Honor Roll is made up of two different awards, the Star Schools Award (214 schools) and Scholar Schools Award (697 schools). A full list of the Honor Roll schools, sorted alphabetically by county, can be found at www.cbee.org.

"We know from the success of these schools that it's possible for all schools and all students in California to reach high levels of academic achievement, to close achievement gaps and to reach 100 percent grade-level proficiency on the California Standards Test," said Jim Lanich, Ph.D., president of CBEE. "Honor Roll schools are on track to do it. By highlighting these schools, recognizing their achievement and giving them a voice we hope other schools can learn from these schools' proven 'best practices' and achieve the same results."

No other school recognition program in California uses hard data, individual school and student subgroup performance data based on the California Standards Tests and the California High School Exit Exam, to evaluate school academic performance. It's only by looking at this hard data and evaluating students and schools based on grade-level proficiency of the California standards, that educators, parents and the public can thoroughly understand what's happening in our schools and ensure that schools are on track to get all students to grade-level proficiency.

Over the past three years, the Honor Roll list has grown from 304 schools in 2006 to 569 schools in 2007 to 911 schools in 2008.

CBEE Foundation/JFTK-CA Star Schools (214 schools) are those with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students that have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency and achievement gap reduction over four years.

CBEE Foundation/JFTK-CA Scholar Schools (697 schools) are schools that are showing significant academic achievement levels, but do not have a significant socio-economically disadvantaged student population.

“Schools on the Honor Roll dispel the myth that certain students can’t reach grade-level proficiency and that schools with a challenging student population won’t be able to succeed,” said Greg Jones, CBEE Chair. “Honor Roll schools are overcoming challenges every day to raise student achievement. CBEE continues to be impressed by the growing number of California public schools that make the Honor Roll each year and that are meeting and exceeding high expectations for their students.”

Overview of the CBEE Foundation/JFTK-CA Honor Roll

Using data from Just for the Kids-California, a free and accurate source of longitudinal student academic performance data (www.jftk-ca.org), CBEE and JFTK-CA have identified and will honor the highest performing public schools in California. Schools making up the Honor Roll are consistently raising academic achievement and making significant progress toward closing achievement gaps for all students. These schools are being recognized not only for their achievements, but so that other schools can learn the successful strategies or “best practices” of these Honor Roll schools.

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California Business for Education Excellence

The mission of California Business for Education Excellence (www.cbee.org) is to raise student academic achievement and close achievement gaps in California public schools by ensuring every student reaches a minimum of grade level proficiency. This is accomplished by providing a voice to high performing, high poverty public schools so that all schools can replicate their best practices. Since 1998, CBEE has worked to focus businesses around a common agenda for better public schools and serves as the business community’s leading voice in education.

Just for the Kids-California

The non-profit organization Just for the Kids -- California (www.jftk-ca.org) provides a powerful on-line data and school improvement system free of charge to California’s public schools and communities. JFTK-CA promotes measurably improved academic achievement in public schools through focused use of achievement data, research and replicating effective school improvement strategies from across the state and nation. The JFTK-CA school improvement system has become the largest longitudinally linked, student academic achievement database in California and is receiving three millions hits per month from California schools.