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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Orange Unified School District Named EPA ENERGY STAR Leader in 2010**

ORANGE, Calif., February 22, 2011—The Orange Unified School District is proud to join EPA's list of ENERGY STAR Leaders, an elite group of organizations that have improved energy efficiency across all of the buildings in a portfolio. OUSD is the first school district in the State of California to earn the 30% ENERGY STAR Leader recognition for improving its energy efficiency by more than 30 percent throughout the district.

"Orange Unified School District is pleased to once again be named an EPA ENERGY STAR Leader," said Renae Dreier, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools. "Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental stewardship while also lowering our energy costs. We are honored by ENERGY STAR's recognition of our conservation success. Our district's sense of accomplishment is gratifying. But there is more conservation to pursue. Our efforts will continue throughout the future because our taxpayers, teachers, parents and students deserve to see every dollar possible sent to the classroom."

Orange Unified School District in Orange, CA, educates approximately 30,000 students across 40 different schools. The district is committed to planning for continual improvement, offering a learning environment with high expectations, and providing each student with the opportunity to compete in a global economy. Orange Unified School District realizes that energy is one of the few expenses that schools can reduce without sacrificing educational quality. With this in mind, the district recognized potential cost savings and implemented an energy management program that relies on both staff and students to make the program a success. Conservation efforts have led to significantly-increased energy efficiency while at the same time instilled a sustainable energy ethic throughout each of Orange Unified School District's schools.

The district has also been recognized previously for improved energy performance of 20 percent and as a Leaders Top Performer for achieving a portfolio-wide energy performance rating of 89. As of January 2011, 36 of the district's buildings earned a 75 or better in EPA's Energy Performance Rating System. In the last year alone, the district has avoided more than 3,000 metric tons of carbon emissions, the equivalent of planting more than 700 acres of trees -- every year! Staff, faculty and students at Orange Unified School District have implemented many changes and improvements in energy consumption habits. This includes establishing a rigorous energy management program in every facility, upgrading underperforming HVAC equipment, and changing behaviors such as turning off lights and computers when not in use.

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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