



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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Orange Unified Student Achievement Surpasses Orange County Average

ORANGE, California, October 12, 2012 – Superintendent of Schools Michael L. Christensen announced today that a significant number of schools in Orange Unified School District (OUSD) met or exceeded the State Academic Performance Index (API) targets. The District API grew 16 points from 820 to 836, exceeding the Orange County Average District API. In addition, 92 percent of the OUSD elementary and secondary schools met the school-wide API growth target. All nine OUSD middle and high schools surpassed their API targets.

The District significant subgroup API results also continue to do extremely well with the Students with Disabilities growing 31 points, English Learners gaining 22 more points, and the Hispanic/Latino subgroup posting a 25-point growth. All significant subgroups targets must be met in order for a school and the District to make the API target.

“With a 29-point gain in our API scores, we raised our score to 766. I am so very proud of our students, staff and teachers. Way to go Matadors!” exclaimed Portola Principal Debbie Backstrom. Portola Middle School posted the highest API growth for middle schools in OUSD.

Along with increasing API, OUSD has consistently earned achievement gains on the federal indicator, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Both the API and AYP results are drawn from individual student results on the statewide Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program that comprise the 2012 Accountability Progress Report. The AYP targets are based on the percentage of students reaching proficient and advanced levels in specific subgroups. In 2012, OUSD saw increases in proficient and advanced students in all district-wide significant subgroups ranging from 7.7% to 1.2 % more students being proficient.

Additional information in the OUSD release of student results includes the Program Improvement (PI) schools that have met all AYP growth criteria and have exited Program Improvement status. Schools must meet AYP criteria for 2 years in a row to exit program improvement. The following schools met all Federal and State AYP criteria in 2012:

- Esplanade Elementary, Amy Hitt, Principal (Met all AYP criteria in 2012)
- Fairhaven Elementary, Kelli Keller, Principal (Exited PI in 2010, National Blue Ribbon School)
- Prospect Elementary, Elena Rodriguez, Principal (Exited PI in 2012)
- Sycamore Elementary, Erika, Krohn, Principal (Exited PI in 2012)
- Taft Elementary School, Antoinette Coe, Principal (Exited PI in 2012)

Sycamore Principal Erika Krohn stated, "It was exceptionally validating to see the official scores today. The school's focus on quality instruction, goal setting, and interventions has all paid off. I am extremely proud of our staff, scholars, and families!" Sycamore Elementary met all AYP targets for all significant subgroups and posted an API gain of 56 points.

"I applaud our students, teachers, parents, administrators and school employees who are setting high standards for student learning and meeting them. The incredible efforts of OUSD staff and the Orange community exemplify the very best in education. Thanks to the cooperation and collaboration of our employee associations and leadership of our school Board, we have maintained the focus on student learning and continuous improvement," remarked Superintendent Christensen.

The California Department of Education (CDE) link to the 2012 Accountability Progress Report for the Orange Unified School District achievement results in API and AYP can be found at www.cde.ca.gov.