

## **Ayala earns prestigious Gold Ribbon Schools Award**

Ayala High is one of 180 high schools to be honored under the state's new Gold Ribbon Schools Awards Program, which is temporarily taking the place of the California Distinguished Schools Program.

An additional 193 middle schools are also receiving the honor.

"These schools are academically successful, vibrant, and innovative centers of learning and teaching," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said Tuesday, May 5 when the awards were announced. "They provide great examples of the things educators do right – embracing rigorous academic standards, providing excellence and creativity in teaching, and creating a positive school climate."

The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment and accountability systems.

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. The new award is recognizing middle and high schools this year and elementary schools in 2016.

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.

The Gold Ribbon schools will be recognized later this month during regional ceremonies held in Sacramento, San Diego, Visalia, and San Francisco.

"This award is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and vision of our school's educational community." Ayala High Principal Diana Yarboi said in an announcement May 5 to Ayala students, staff, and parents. "Congratulations to all teachers, staff, students, parents, CVUSD and the entire community."