

COUNTRY SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CHINO HILLS NAMED NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Country Springs Elementary School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2015, the highest recognition that a school can receive. It was one of just 332 schools across the nation to receive the designation.

It is the second time Country Springs has earned the award, previously being named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2007.

“The designation is the result of all the hard work by Country Springs’ staff, students, parents, and Principal Luke Hackney,” said Wayne M. Joseph, Superintendent of Chino Valley Unified School District. “It is a testament to their hard work and professionalism.”

Principal Hackney also praised the current and former staff, students and parents.

It is a collaborative effort and we certainly formed a team that took teaching and learning seriously and lead our students to the highest level of achievement, he said.

The designation is based on the schools’ overall academic excellence or its progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The schools also demonstrate that all students can achieve to higher levels.

The Board of Education will honor the school at 7:00 p.m. at its meeting on November 5 at the District Board room. The U.S. Department of Education will honor Country Springs and the other Blue Ribbon Schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C.

In its 33-year history, the [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#) has bestowed this coveted award on more than 8,000 of America’s schools.

In addition to the Blue Ribbon award, Country Springs received top honors from the state three times, and named a California Distinguished School in 1999/2000, 2005/2006, and again in 2009/2010.

“This honor recognizes your students’ accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success,” U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a [video message \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDhvlhG62uo&feature=player_embedded\)](#) to the awardees. “Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award plaque affirms the hard work of students,

educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The award flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- *Exemplary High Performing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates are also at the highest levels.
- *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels.

Country Springs Elementary is being recognized as an *Exemplary High Performing School*.

The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education officials in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction.