



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: December 9, 2019**

**SUBJECT: Oak Grove Recognized with Distinguished California Education Honor**

**San Jose - Oak Grove receives Golden Bell Award from California School Boards Association celebrating outstanding education programs and governance practices**

Oak Grove School District was selected as one of 57 recipients of California’s leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award. The Golden Bell Awards, celebrating their 40th year, are presented by the California School Boards Association to promote excellence in public education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices. The awards reflect the depth and breadth of education programs and governance decisions supporting these programs that are necessary to address students’ changing needs.

Oak Grove received its award at a well-attended reception and ceremony on Dec. 5, 2019, at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina. The awards ceremony was part of CSBA’s Annual Education Conference and Trade Show held from Dec. 5-7 in San Diego.

Oak Grove’s implementation of the SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language) program was submitted as an outstanding program in the category of English Language Acquisition. Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL) is a comprehensive model of enriched language and literacy education for both English-Only and English Learner (EL) students. It allows teachers to develop rich academic language for and through all subjects in OGSD. It was designed by Dr. Laurie Olsen, a national expert in English language learner education. Currently, it is implemented in 12 of our schools, both in structured English Immersion (SEI) classrooms and dual language classrooms. Oak Grove School District is a demonstration site for SEAL.

“For young English Learners, the model creates learning conditions that build language and literacy skills necessary to succeed in the academic world and the world-at-large. For all students, the SEAL classroom brings to life the rigor, relevance, and learner engagement called for by the CCSS.” José L. Manzo, Superintendent

The model produces powerful language skills and rich academic vocabulary development through hands-on science and social studies-based thematic units addressing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). SEAL also supports parents to develop language and literacy practices with their children at home and in the classroom that results in authentic family engagement as well as a home-to-school connection. The model provides intensive professional development to teachers and administrators, coaching, and collaborative planning and reflection.

A judging panel composed of experts from school districts and county offices of education across the state reviewed written entries and made initial recommendations. On-site validators then reviewed the recommendations and assessed the programs in action. This year’s Golden Bell winners demonstrated

that they are addressing student needs through areas such as equity and access, school climate and safety, technology and wellness.

“Now more than ever is a time to acknowledge and celebrate innovative and impactful programs that make a difference in the lives of our young people,” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. “This year’s Golden Bell winners truly serve as beacons of success as we work to more fully and equitably serve all of California’s public school students.”

To learn more about the Golden Bell awards and all the winners, visit the program’s website at <https://gb.csba.org/>

