

EUSD WINS 2022 GOLDEN BELL AWARD – CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION CATEGORY
EUSD FARM LAB PROGRAM

ENCINITAS -

The Encinitas Union School District (EUSD) is proud to announce that its Farm Lab program has been chosen in the Climate Change Innovation Category, by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) to receive the state's leading educational honor, the 2022 Golden Bell Award. The 2022 Golden Bell Award will be presented at a special ceremony during the upcoming CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Diego this December.

The Farm Lab project began as a 10-acre dirt lot. Through a visionary, green lens, EUSD leadership built out the property to expand district farm-to-school efforts and provide innovative, transdisciplinary, project and place-based environmental education to all kindergarten through grade six students. Two intentional components were integrated to meet the school board's goals and serve all EUSD students: an organic farm and the DREAMS satellite sustainability campus (Design, Research, Engineering, Art, Math, and Science.) The project provides various climate change education opportunities for all and minimizes the district's carbon footprint.

EUSD Superintendent Dr. Andrée Grey shared appreciation of the CSBA validation team in awarding the 2022 Golden Bell for the EUSD Farm Lab program. Superintendent Grey shared that "All EUSD students visit Farm Lab annually. The sustainability campus provides high quality, hands-on science instruction and design thinking challenges that create solutions to real-world problems."

EUSD Board President Marla Strich commented "The Farm Lab project's certified organic farm supplies produce for school salad bars and scratch-made lunch items, which has created healthier students and built rich soil. The farm has built student awareness of food systems and the benefits of eating local and organic, while simultaneously minimizing the district's carbon footprint."

CSBA's Golden Bell Award program promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding public school programs that are innovative and sustainable, make a demonstrated difference for students, and focus on meeting the needs of all public school students. Experts from school districts and county offices of education made up the judging panel that reviewed the written entries and made the initial recommendations for the awards. On-site validation visits assessed the programs in action. EUSD is proud to be receiving this honor.

