

Russo McEntee Academy Recognized with Distinguished California Education Honor

Russo McEntee Academy receives Golden Bell Award from California School Boards Association celebrating outstanding education programs and governance practices

SACRAMENTO, Calif., (December 6, 2024) –Russo McEntee Academy was selected as a recipients of California’s leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award. The Golden Bell Awards, celebrating their 45th year, are presented by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) 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.

Russo McEntee Academy received its award at a well-attended reception and ceremony on Dec. 5, 2024, at the Anaheim Marriott. The awards ceremony was part of CSBA’s Annual Education Conference and Trade Show held from Dec. 5-7 in Anaheim. The conference is the premier continuing education event for California school board members and the largest education leadership conference in the state.

Russo McEntee Academy developed a shared vision to empower its youth to protect what they love by providing experiential learning about environmental issues. The program nurtures stewardship in the community through field trips, garden classes, developing green spaces on campus and close partnerships with local environmental nonprofits. Additionally, since the program’s implementation, the school has seen growth in English language reclassification, California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress English language arts scores, and student and staff wellness.

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.

”CSBA is proud to recognize innovative programs from local educational agencies around the state that make a difference in the lives of students,” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. “The 2024 Golden Bell winners exemplify the creativity and performance our school districts and county offices of education can produce when given the flexibility to respond to local conditions and the needs of their unique student populations. This year’s honorees are modeling programs and services that LEAs throughout California can emulate in order to more fully serve California’s public school students.”

To learn more about the Golden Bell Awards and all the winners, visit <http://awards.csba.org/golden-bell/>.

CSBA is a nonprofit education association representing the elected officials who govern public school districts and county offices of education. With a membership of nearly 1,000 educational agencies statewide, CSBA brings together school governing boards and district and county office administrators to advocate for effective policies that advance the education and well-being of the state’s more than 6 million school-age children. Learn more at www.csba.org.