



## **For Immediate Release**

1401 W. Valencia Avenue  
Fullerton, CA 92833  
714-447-7465

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### **FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT** ***Common Sense District Recognition***

**(Fullerton, CA)** – Fullerton School District has been recognized as a Common Sense Certified District by Common Sense Education, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of digital media and technology.

Fullerton School District has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate, while preparing them for the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. With the right support, kids can take ownership of their digital lives, engage with real issues, and change their communities for the better. The recognition acknowledges our district's commitment to creating a culture of digital citizenship. This honor recognizes the lessons teachers taught last year, the staff development provided by the District, and the parent/community outreach and education offered. FSD is one of fewer than 150 districts in the country to earn this honor, teaching digital citizenship in all 20 of our schools.

Implementation in FSD included teachers in grades Kindergarten through sixth covering key lessons from Common Sense Media that included topics such as news and media literacy, cyberbullying, digital drama and hate speech, privacy and security and relationships and communication. Additionally, all staff received training on topics including how to avoid falling victim to phishing scams and parents were able to engage in learning opportunities to support them with keeping their children safe online while at home.

"We applaud the faculty and staff of Fullerton School District for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Liz Kline, VP, Education Programs, Common Sense Education. "Fullerton School District deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

Fullerton School District has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with Dr. Howard Gardner at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, managing online relationships, and

media literacy. The free K-12 curriculum is used in classrooms nationwide, in more than 65,000 schools by more than 75,000 educators.

"We're honored to again be recognized as a Common Sense District" said Dr. Robert Pletka. "By preparing our students to use technology safely and responsibly, we are providing them unlimited opportunities to maximize and personalize their learning and thrive in real world endeavors."

To learn more about the criteria Fullerton School District met to become recognized as a Common Sense District, visit <https://www.common sense.org/education/recognition-districts>.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 12,100 students in grades TK – 8<sup>th</sup>. The Fullerton School District includes 20 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8<sup>th</sup> grade schools, and three middle schools. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org).

#### About Common Sense Education

Common Sense Education supports K-12 schools with free, timely, and research-based resources for teaching in the digital age. We believe that learning digital life skills is essential for student to thrive in today’s world and that all students should have access to learning these skills. That’s why we make our digital citizenship resources available for free, ready for any educator to plug in to tomorrow’s lesson plan. Our core resources include a comprehensive K-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum, all-inclusive reviews of the most popular and latest edtech tools, and expert advice on how to use those tools more effectively in the classroom. Over half a million educators in nearly half of K-12 U.S. schools use our resources to teach kids digital life skills. We’re excited to keep that number growing so all our kids can thrive in the digital age. Common Sense is the leading independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Every day, Common Sense Media supports parents, teachers, and policymakers with unbiased information, innovative tools, and trusted advice to support kids’ digital well-being. For more information, visit [www.common sense.org/education](http://www.common sense.org/education).

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*For more information, please feel free to contact Wes Kriesel/Director of Innovation and Instructional Support at 714/447-7555*