FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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Fisler School Earns School to Watch Redesignation, Highlighting Sustained Excellence and Innovation

FULLERTON, CA – Robert C. Fisler School has earned redesignation as a California School to Watch, recognized for its sustained academic excellence, innovative programs and strong, student-centered school culture.

The Schools to Watch program – led by the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) in partnership with the California Department of Education – recognizes middle schools for academic excellence, equity and continuous improvement.

Fisler – first designated in 2023 – was recognized at the CLMS Annual Conference in March and will be honored in Washington, D.C., this summer.

“This redesignation reflects the dedication of our entire school community and our shared commitment to ensuring every student is known, challenged and supported,” Principal Caroline Llewellyn, Ed.D., said. “At Fisler, we create meaningful, student-centered learning experiences grounded in innovation, where students build strong academics, critical thinking, collaboration, and empathy – empowering them to become confident, connected leaders and changemakers ready to shape the future."

Fisler’s success is rooted in a comprehensive, student-centered approach to instruction and support. Staff use data to provide targeted interventions, including small-group instruction and programs like Navigator Catch Up Café, where students strengthen study skills, organization and academic performance.

Through its signature PATHfinder program, students explore personal interests, build social-emotional skills and prepare for high school and beyond. A wide range of electives – including journalism, broadcasting, coding, cultural studies and the arts – further supports student voice, engagement and real-world learning.

The school fosters a strong sense of belonging through activities such as Science Olympiad, Speech and Debate, intramural sports and leadership programs, along with active student voice through ASB and schoolwide events. Family engagement further supports student success by strengthening connections between home and school.

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Fisler's commitment to student wellness is reflected in its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, which has contributed to a consistently low suspension rate and a positive, respectful campus environment.

The school has earned numerous recognitions for its excellence, including National Blue Ribbon School, Apple Distinguished School, California Distinguished School and PBIS Platinum status, underscoring its commitment to innovation, equity and high-quality instruction.

"Fisler's recognition as a School to Watch highlights the outstanding work happening on its campus to support all students," Interim Superintendent Chad Hammitt, Ed.D., said. "It also reflects what makes Fullerton School District unique – an innovative TK-8 system with robust programs and opportunities you simply don't find anywhere else. We are empowering leaders long before they reach high school, and Fisler is a powerful example of that work in action."

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

050426_FISLER_SCHOOLTOWATCH1: Principal Caroline Llewellyn and Assistant Principal Linda Beecher join Fisler Junior High students in celebrating the school's redesignation as a California Schools to Watch campus – an honor recognizing exemplary middle schools that support student success.

050426_FISLER_SCHOOLTOWATCH2: Fisler Junior High students proudly display their Scholastic Achievement Awards, recently earned for their outstanding participation in the Fullerton School District's FSD Fest, highlighting their creativity, dedication and academic excellence.

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