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**Pittsburg Unified School District Receives Gold Level
California Green Ribbon School Award**

Pittsburg, CA — Pittsburg Unified School District is being recognized by the California Department of Education for the district's ongoing efforts in energy conservation, sustainability, and programs to help the community and students. According to the Green Ribbon Schools Award Program, the gold status achievement is based on PUSD's ability to provide effective environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways. The award also recognizes the district's ability to reduce environmental impact and costs as well as its efforts to improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff. Based on the requirements of the certification, PUSD scored a 79%, qualifying in the Gold Level of the California Green Ribbon Schools program (CA-GRS).

Pittsburg Unified School District was presented the Gold award by the California Green Ribbon Schools (CA-GRS) at a special ceremony presented by Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction on Friday, February 26, 2016. PUSD along with several other school districts, private schools, and public schools were honored at the ceremony.

"The Gold Level achievement is a confirmation of the positive direction that we are heading in, and our leadership in school districts, the community and County, and in the

State for what we are accomplishing here,” said Alan Glass, Special Projects Accountant/Energy Supervisor at Pittsburg Unified School District. “We are committed to conservation efforts that benefit the health and welfare of our students and staff.”

Pittsburg Unified has made significant strides in the areas of sustainability and environmental conservation in recent years. Over the last five years, the District has installed solar arrays at all of its school sites and implemented an aggressive recycling program. The District has gone green with its use of materials including chemicals, and has gardens that supply produce for the Child Nutrition Services program, serving all schools. Beginning at Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School and spreading to the other two junior highs, the schools established a sustainability action group known as the Army of the Earth. This group, educated and inspired by science teacher Tom Edwards, takes action with sustainability projects, such as community trash cleanups and strives to reduce single use plastics. These efforts are carried out in conjunction with community partners, including the City of Pittsburg. As Mr. Edwards likes to say, “Choosing to be part of the Army is an easy choice because it’s about doing the right thing for the Earth and our future. Everyone in the Army realizes that the change begins with them.”

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About Pittsburg Unified School District

Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study, alternative learning experiences, and early childhood education services, the school district serves more than 10,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.

About the Green Ribbon Schools Award Program

The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award honors schools, school districts, and Institutes of Higher Education for excellence in resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education. The recognition award is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education (ED) effort to identify and communicate practices that result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness; and reinforces federal efforts to increase energy independence and economic security.