

September 6, 2013

Dear California Private School Colleagues,

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and the staff at the California Department of Education have announced we will participate in the third year of the Green Ribbon Schools program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

The program recognizes schools that reduce environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. In the first year, 11 private schools out of a total of 78 schools nationwide, were recognized, including California's Athenian School in 2012. This last school year, there were 10 private schools recognized, including California's Prospect Sierra School. The Green Ribbon Program is a significant step forward in developing environmentally sustainable schools across the country.

I am writing to urge that you participate in the Green Ribbon Schools Program. You can obtain all the necessary details by following this link: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/greenribbonprog.asp>. Please note that applications will be due no later than December 27, 2013. California's nominations will be made to the U.S. Department of Education in early February, with national winners announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2014.

If you do have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me or the staff at the California Department of Education.

Best regards,

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