

# Press Release

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Solana Vista Elementary School Named National Blue Ribbon School for 2020

SOLANA BEACH, CA (September 25, 2020) – [Solana Beach School District](#) proudly announces that [Solana Vista Elementary School](#) has been named a [National Blue Ribbon School](#) for 2020 by the United States Department of

Education for its progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Solana Vista is one of only 36 public and non-public schools in the entire state of California and 367 schools across the nation to be recognized this year.

The prestigious National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of the school community in creating a safe, welcoming environment where students can master challenging and engaging content.



*(Photo: Solana Vista student body and staff gather wearing class t-shirts prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.)*

"The school culture at Solana Vista is founded on relationships and creating a nurturing, engaging learning environment for each student," said Julie Union, President of the Solana Beach School District Board of Education. "This year's National Blue Ribbon Award confirms that the leadership, staff, and families are collectively working together to put those ideas into action for the success of its students."

"I cannot think of better news for the Solana Vista School staff, students, families, and Principal Zimmer," said Superintendent Jodee Brentlinger. "This is a moment of great pride and celebration for the entire school district."

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Solana Vista Principal, Katie Zimmer is thrilled with the announcement. “This recognition is truly a testament to the dedication of the amazing staff, students and families of Solana Vista. I am humbled and honored to be a part of such a wonderful school community.” As noted in the school’s application, “It is the belief of all at Solana Vista that kindness and connection are the foundation for creating an environment where staff and students feel safe and ready to take learning risks in order to reach their potential as a person. This foundation begins with building relationships and making connections, and it continues with providing students with a research-based, structured literacy program.”

Given the current situation with COVID-19, the Department of Education said they regret not having the opportunity to celebrate in person, but it will celebrate the 317 public and 50 non-public school honorees with a virtual National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony on November 12 and 13, 2020. Each school will receive its plaque and Blue Ribbon School flag via mail. The Solana Vista campus is currently closed for a reconstruction project funded by Measure JJ. It is anticipated to reopen in Fall 2021.

Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards.

The Education Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores, and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students.

For more information, contact SBSD Superintendent Jodee Brentlinger at (858) 794-7104 or for more information from the United States Department of Education, contact the Press Office at (202) 401-1576 or [press@ed.gov](mailto:press@ed.gov). Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at <https://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>.

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