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## Four Lamorinda Schools Named CA Distinguished Schools

*Submitted by Jonathan Lance*

Campolindo and Miramonte High School, as well as Stanley Middle School and Orinda Intermediate School, were among 13 schools named by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson as California Distinguished Schools in Contra Costa County for their "strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student-academic achievement."

The program recognizes elementary and secondary schools in alternating years. Distinguished Schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria, including designated federal and state accountability measures, and they must provide an in-depth description of two Signature Practices that their staff members believe have contributed to the success of their students. For applications that are accepted, each school receives a site visit by a team of local educators to validate the full implementation of the Signature Practices described in the application.

Local school visits were conducted in March by a team of 20 educators from the Contra Costa County Office of Education, augmented by two retired administrators and three district principals. The local Distinguished Schools program is coordinated by Peggy Marshburn, chief communications officer, Contra Costa County Office of Education. Distinguished Schools are honored at regional award ceremonies, where the state superintendent of California Public Instruction presents each school with a 2013 Distinguished School plaque and flag. The events and awards are funded by donations from many California corporations and statewide-educational organizations.

For more information about the Distinguished School program, visit [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/).

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