



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZES MAGNOLIA SCIENCE ACADEMY - SAN DIEGO AS ONE OF 2021'S DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS**

*Magnolia Science Academy - San Diego is recognized by State Superintendent Tony Thurmond's office for providing an outstanding academic program to students.*

**SAN DIEGO, CA** – [Magnolia Science Academy - San Diego](#) (MSA-San Diego)—part of the [Magnolia Public Schools](#) (MPS) network of high-performing TK-12 schools—was recognized by the California Department of Education as one of [2021's California Distinguished Schools](#) for their exceptional gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards for all students.

“This recognition is a testament to the work that our MSA-San Diego team has done, especially during this past year as we all navigated the pandemic and distance learning. I’m incredibly proud of our team who have provided a stellar educational program for *all* students and went above and beyond in closing the achievement gap,” said Magnolia Public Schools CEO Alfredo Rubalcava. “This award is a testament to the robust and successful academic model that we’ve built over the past 19 years and validates the great work that we continue to do as an organization.”

Every year, the California Department of Education (CDE) identifies and awards eligible elementary, middle, and high schools to be honored with this prestigious award based on performance and progress on state indicators specified on the California School Dashboard. The indicators include test scores, suspension rates, and conditions and climate. This year, the CDE announced that 102 middle and high schools were identified as award recipients.

“In my last eight years at Magnolia Science Academy, we had many statewide accomplishments in science, math, robotics, band, archery, engineering, and arts. We are very excited, proud, and honored by the California Distinguished School recognition on our 15 year anniversary,” said MSA-San Diego Principal Gokhan Serce. “This recognition from the state is another seal of approval for our successful program in San Diego. I am very thankful to all of our wonderful teachers, staff, students, parents, MPS leadership and MPS Board of trustees for their **Wisdom, Intellect, Zest, Accountability, Respect, and Determination**, to make this amazing recognition happen—this is the Wizard Way!”

MSA-San Diego looks forward to attending the virtual awards ceremony which has yet to be announced by the CDE. In the meantime, we will celebrate the award with teachers, staff, students, and families.

MSA-San Diego is currently enrolling students in grades 6-8 for the 2021-22 school year. To learn more about the academic program or to enroll please visit [msasd.magnoliapublicschools.org/enroll](https://msasd.magnoliapublicschools.org/enroll).

### **About Magnolia Public Schools**

Magnolia Public Schools is a high-performing network of 10 public charter schools in Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange counties that provides a college preparatory educational program emphasizing science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Magnolia's mission is to prepare students to succeed in college through a rigorous academic program while reinforcing core values through character development classes that cultivate respect for self and others. Magnolia's vision is to create scientific thinkers who contribute to the global community as socially responsible and educated members of society. [www.magnoliapublicschools.org](http://www.magnoliapublicschools.org)

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