

The California School Boards Association has honored ABC Unified School District with 13 Golden Bell Awards since 2002. The Golden Bell Awards Program honors exemplary K-12 programs in 19 major categories.

The first Golden Bell Award, in 2002, honored the Southside Schools Reading Collaborative in the Partnerships and Collaboratives Category. The Southside Schools Reading Collaborative is a vertical team of six schools including Aloha, Furgeson, Hawaiian, Melbourne, Fedde MS and Artesia HS working collaboratively to promote reading achievement. This was also the first major partnership effort with ABCFT in raising student achievement.

The second Golden Bell Award in 2003 was for the Parent Leadership Academy and Conference in the Parental/Community Involvement Category. The ABC Parent Leadership Academy and Conference is a yearlong program that provides effective training for parents to become successful leaders for their children in school. The multi-language workshops are open to all parents and conducted by school and district staff as well as community agencies.

In 2005, Leal Elementary School won the third Golden Bell Award for its Family Science Night in the Parental/Community Involvement Category. Family Science Night promotes science education with students and parents in a variety of fun workshops that are related to the state standards. Leal's PTA is a major partner with this annual event for almost eight hundred students and their families.

The fourth Golden Bell Award, in 2006, recognized the STEP, PATH and STAY Programs. The STEP (Systems to Encourage Peace) program is an anti-violence program. The PATH (Pointing Adolescents Toward Health) program is an anti-drug program and the STAY (Smoking Tobacco and You) program. All of these programs have contributed to reduced number of violent, harmful and non-healthy types of behaviors.

In 2007, CSBA honored the District with the fifth Golden Bell Award for the RISE (Reading Involves Schoolwide Employees) Program. The RISE Program provides district employees who do not work in the classroom to volunteer to read one hour a week in one of the schools. The goal of the program is to support raising reading achievement. The RISE Program has expanded to include community partners including the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Cerritos Rotary Club.

In 2008, we won our sixth Golden Bell Award for the UNITE Show under the category of “Partnerships and Collaboratives”. The UNITE Show is a district cable production that communicates the exciting work of the District. It partners with students, teachers and community volunteers to produce this monthly program. The show’s entertaining format builds a sense of community around school activities.

In 2009, ABC received two Golden Bell Awards. The 7th Golden Bell Awards went to Tetzlaff’s Red Carpet Media Festival under the Technology category. The Red Carpet Media Festival is a culminating event that celebrates students who have demonstrated competence in using technology and media productions to produce video public service announcements, yearbook, photography, and Web page design.

Also in 2009, we won the 8th Golden Bell Award for our Network for a Healthy California under the category of “Wellness”. The program works with students, parents, and teacher to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, as well as raise physical activity to a minimum of 30 minutes a day for adults and 60 minutes for children.

In 2010, the 9th Golden Bell Award was given to Niemes Magnet School’s Environmental Science Fair and Festival Program in the Science Category. The Fair and Festival empowers students to become active participants in the stewardship of our planet. The students are able to display their knowledge of grade level science concepts during the Fair and gain access to the Science Lab, Nature Center, Green Kids Club, Environmental Stewards Club and Environmental Festival Green Program.

In 2011, we were honored with two Golden Bell Awards. The tenth Golden Bell Award went to Carver Academy's Enrichment Clusters Program in the Partnerships and Collaboratives Category. This program brings together students and adults in the community with common interests. Students select enrichment classes facilitated by school staff, parents and community volunteers. These cluster classes extend the learning for all students.

Also in 2011, the eleventh Golden Bell Awards went to Carmenita Middle School's Distinguished Schools Program in the Middle Schools Category. The goal of this program is to accelerate learning for students who strive for excellence in a specific subject area. The objective is to move students from where they are to the next level of excellence.

In 2013, we again honored with two Golden Bell Awards. The Smart Academy focuses on increasing reading achievement by using academic language and a positive attitude toward school. The program focuses on African American and Hispanic-Latino students in 4th-6th grade attending Title 1 schools. Students receive extended learning time on reading comprehension strategies and academic vocabulary development. The parents of the students also participate in workshops on strategies to support and increase their child's learning.

Also in 2013, the thirteenth Golden Bell Award was awarded to the JAM Sessions. The JAM Sessions provide opportunities for Nixon students to explore their particular strengths and talents. Students select from a variety of sessions offered by teachers, staff and community members. They occur Friday afternoons for one hour during a six week period. The goal of JAM Sessions is to engage students in their own learning through creative experiences that take place outside of the traditional classroom.