Lincoln Middle School Named 2011 California Distinguished School
State Superintendent Praises High Academic Performance, Sustained Growth and Significant Progress Closing the Achievement Gap

Alameda, Tuesday, April 19, 2011 – Last week State Superintendent Tom Torlakson named Lincoln Middle School as a 2011 California Distinguished School.

The California School Recognition Program of the California Department of Education honors the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. This year only 97 schools from the entire state of California received this highly prestigious award.

State Superintendent Torlakson explained the significance of this recognition: “Becoming a Distinguished School is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and vision of each school’s education community. They have succeeded despite a bleak economic environment and have endeavored to maintain their momentum and focus.”

As part of winning the Distinguished School title, Lincoln Middle School has agreed to share its best practices (“Signature Practices”) with other schools and to work with others interested in implementing those practices. Lincoln Middle School’s Signature Practices are English Language Learner Support Program and Increasing Academic Vocabulary in English Language Arts and Science. Each program increases the academic achievement through intense academic instruction, building student-teacher relationship through engaging activities, targeted instruction and individualized academic plans. Specific and frequent data collection tied to a Cycle of Inquiry, teacher collaboration, calibrated-standards based lessons and activities, and intentional re-teaching were identified as necessary for program success.

Lincoln became eligible for this recognition based on its overall state Academic Performance Index and its federal Adequate Yearly Progress, as well as its demonstrated success in using Signature Practices to increase student achievement and narrow the achievement gap. The California Department of Education also conducted a thorough site visit to confirm and validate the Signature Practices.

Superintendent Vital praised Lincoln for this extraordinary achievement: “We are proud of the entire Lincoln community for all the outstanding work this great honor represents for Lincoln and for all of Alameda. We look forward to continuing to collaborate and share our best educational practices within Alameda as well as with our colleagues around the state.”