



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Yu Ming Charter School Awarded 2020 California Distinguished Schools Recognition**

OAKLAND, CA (Dec. 19, 2019) -- Yu Ming Charter School was recognized yesterday as a 2020 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education.

Sponsored by the California Department of Education and presented by California Casualty, the program recognizes outstanding education programs and practices. Schools are awarded for closing the achievement gap and for achieving exceptional student performance. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced today that 323 elementary schools are being honored under the 2020 California Distinguished Schools Award Program.

“These outstanding schools don’t just educate students; they also provide the young people of California the tools they need to be successful after graduation,” Thurmond said. “Thanks go to all the staff at these schools—teachers, administrators, classified employees—and parents, who are working together to provide high-quality educational experiences for all of their students.”

Yu Ming is one of only four schools in Oakland to receive this statewide award. The mandarin immersion school will be honored on February 10, 2020, during an awards ceremony at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim.

"This statewide recognition is close to our hearts since as a California charter school, we strive to serve all California students in innovative ways every day. We are thrilled to see the hard

work and loving dedication of our staff, our teachers, and our families, recognized and celebrated once more,” said Sue Park, Yu Ming’s Head of School.

Yu Ming receives the California Distinguished Schools Award after recently being awarded the 2019 National Blue Ribbon, as an “Exemplary High Performing” school.

A component of the California School Recognition Program, the Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools based on performance and progress on the state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard. Indicators include test scores, suspension rates, and conditions and climate. Elementary schools and middle and high schools are recognized in alternate years; therefore, awardees hold the title for two years.

Yu Ming is a nonprofit, tuition-free public charter school authorized by the Alameda County Office of Education. Located in Oakland, CA, Yu Ming is open to all California residents. Founded in 2011, now enrolling 488 students in grades K-8, Yu Ming is the first Mandarin immersion charter school in the state. In addition to a full immersion dual-language bilingual curriculum, Yu Ming’s model is centered on data-driven academic excellence and includes personalized, project-based, and social-emotional learning to develop self-directed, purposeful, and empathetic learners.

To learn more about Yu Ming Charter School's innovative program, go to [www.yumingschool.org](http://www.yumingschool.org).

For more information about the California Distinguished Schools Program, please visit the CDE [California School Recognition Program](#) web page.