



**Fresno Unified School District**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**#19-4.4.1**

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#### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Baird Middle School and Design Science Middle College High School Celebrate Distinguished Schools Designation**

**What:** Baird Middle School and Design Science Middle College High School celebrate their designations as California Distinguished Schools

**When:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019  
Baird – 10 a.m.  
Design Science – 11 a.m.

**Where:** Baird Middle School gym  
5500 N. Maroa Ave. (93704)  
Design Science multipurpose room  
2004 E. Cambridge Ave. (93703)

Baird Middle School and Design Science Middle College High School will celebrate their recent designations as [California Distinguished Schools](#). They are among 162 middle and high schools to earn the distinction for 2019. Each campus will hold school-wide events to recognize the hard work of staff and students.

The California Department of Education (CDE) program recognizes schools achieving exceptional student performance for two consecutive years or closing the achievement gap between two years. Distinguished School award winners offer not only excellent teaching, learning and collaboration, but highly successful school climate efforts.

To assess schools and districts for the award, the state uses data from the [California School Dashboard](#) and includes test scores, suspension rates and graduation rates. Schools hold their title for two years.

Baird is a magnet school (with lottery selection) offering grades 5-8 with an emphasis on world languages and cultures, agribusiness and technology. Baird is an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) National Demonstration School, only one of about 140 such schools nationwide.

Design Science offers concurrent enrollment at Fresno City College, enabling students to graduate with a high school diploma and up to two years of college credits. Design Science students have achieved results well above the district and state levels, as well as community college student success outcomes. For the past three years, 100% of Design Science graduated and 100% of graduates have received admissions offers from four-year universities.

“The state’s Distinguished Schools designation for Baird Middle School and Design Science Middle College High School recognizes what we have known for some time – these two campuses are among the best in California. Both schools are producing academically strong, well-rounded students who outperform state standards,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

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