In the Huntington Beach City School District we pride ourselves on creating programs to challenge and engage our students with learning opportunities the require our students to think critically, collaborate with many, communicate with all, and creatively solve problems that they may face. Just this week we were pleased to be informed that both Ethel M. Dwyer Middle School and Isaac L. Sowers Middle School were awarded the 2019 California Distinguished School Award for showing exceptional gains on California State Indicators. These areas included: test scores, school climate, suspension rates and other local indicators. Throughout the State of California, only 162 of the thousands of eligible middle and high schools were recognized for their work and given the Distinguished School Award. The Distinguished School Award Program was on hiatus for the last three years while California transitioned to its new assessment and accountability system. The awards alternate between awarding middle and high schools and then the following year honoring elementary schools. We are extremely proud of the work of our middle schools and proud that this work is being recognized by the state of California. The work and the positive impact our middle schools make with our students each day represents our belief in: excellence in teaching, learning, collaboration, innovation, and positive school climate. We are honored that the state has recognized the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, classified employees, and schools in our district.

Continuing with great news and honors for our schools and employees, HBCSD received further accolades this week! HBCSD Director of Special Education, Stacy Wheat has been selected as the Association of California School Administrators Region 17, 2019 Administrator of the Year for Special Education. The criteria for this great honor included sustained positive impact of student achievement and learning, along with creating and maintaining positive programs for our students who qualify for special education services. Mrs. Wheat has worked to develop a team of individuals who work hard to meet the needs of all of our students. HBCSD would like to congratulate Mrs. Wheat for this honor and greatly appreciates her contributions to the students of our district.

HBCSD is on the move to actively engage our students, their families and our community in the process of education.

Gregg Haulk
Superintendent

March 2019