

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Sept. 26, 2019

Two CCSD schools named National Blue Ribbon Schools *Only three Nevada schools selected for this national honor*

LAS VEGAS - Two Clark County School District (CCSD) schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools in the Exemplary High Performing Schools Category by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) today. The CCSD schools honored are Advanced Technologies Academy (A-TECH) and Charles and Phyllis Frias Elementary School. Only three schools in Nevada were selected for this national honor this year.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon School awards affirm the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

"We are extremely proud of our two schools being honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools," said CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara. "Advanced Technologies Academy and Charles and Phyllis Frias Elementary School prove yet again that CCSD is quickly becoming the #1 choice for parents and students to receive a rich and rigorous education in Clark County. This is a true testament to the hard work of our teachers, support professionals, administrators and students. Congratulations to them for achieving this tremendous recognition."

The award is based on the individual school's overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. This year, the DOE selected 362 public and private schools nationwide as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2019.

The schools will be recognized by the DOE during a ceremony in Washington D.C. in November.

About A-TECH

Since 1994, A-TECH has been an example of how a diverse student body, innovative teachers and a 21st century curriculum can change the trajectory of students' lives. Due to having a blind lottery and free transportation for all students, A-TECH closely mirrors Clark County's extremely diverse demographics with students from every zip code represented and no ethnic majority. A-TECH is a three-time Blue Ribbon Award winner (2003, 2011, 2019) and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this school year.

A-TECH provides a comprehensive curriculum in three pillars: Advanced Placement (AP), Career and Technical Education (CTE) and "Connector" courses (Debate, Band, Orchestra, etc.). The three pillars allow students to explore various disciplines through a well-balanced high school experience. In five years, A-TECH has added seven AP courses for a total of 25

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courses. This expansion has led to greater equity of access with 83% of the students in the class of 2018 passing at least one AP examination and half of the exams being taken by students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch.

A-TECH students are selected into a 4-year CTE program (Architectural Design, Business Management, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Engineering, Graphic Design, and IT Networking). Seniors must complete an extensive Capstone Project, which includes a research paper, presentation and project or internship. A-TECH's robust CTE program allows students to obtain real-world skills that are critical for post-secondary options. A-TECH is proud of its tradition of excellence, consistent 100% graduation rate and preparation of future leaders.

About Charles and Phyllis Frias Elementary School

Charles and Phyllis Frias Elementary School is a suburban school located in the southwest region of Las Vegas, Nevada. Frias Elementary School opened in 2003 in honor of Charles and Phyllis Frias. It was their belief that every child could sail, soar and succeed. Mr. and Mrs. Frias exemplified what every school dreams of having in a namesake: kindness, generosity, commitment and willingness to provide students and staff with the support to achieve greatness. To keep the Charles and Phyllis Frias' legacy alive, the school honors students who display positive attitudes and demonstrate a growth mindset.

The staff of Frias is dedicated to providing high-quality instruction with a focus on student diversity through collaboration and intentional academic discourse. Frias has a diverse population that brings excellent opportunities for peer interaction and learning. The students benefit from highly skilled staff members who facilitate a rich learning environment where students thrive. The teaching staff provides opportunities for students to reflect on their own learning through lessons that promote critical thinkers to use layered levels of knowledge. Staff members provide a wide range of assessments from performance-based tasks to constructed responses that allow for self monitoring, reflection and goal setting.

Collaboration among teachers, administration, support staff and families allows students to feel protected and cared for, which directly affects student achievement and success, resulting in high self-esteem, positive peer interactions and well-rounded individuals. Frias has demonstrated consistent high academic achievement through visionary leadership, a dedicated staff, an engaged community and inquisitive learners.

To learn more about the Clark County School District, visit ccsd.net.

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