



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chico High School Earns Prestigious State Recognition *Celebrating a Culture of Excellence*

Chico, CA – Chico Unified is proud to announce that Chico High School has been officially recognized as a 2026 California Distinguished School for its outstanding commitment to student success and campus culture. While the accolade comes from the California Department of Education, the heart of this achievement lies within the classrooms, staff, offices, workshops, libraries, media centers and athletic fields of the Chico High campus.

Since its inception in 1985, the California Distinguished Schools Award has remained one of the State's most significant ways to celebrate exceptional schools, districts, and staff for their innovation, talent, and success in supporting students. The program recognizes exemplary instructional programs within the State of California.

Chico High School's Principal, Erica Sheridan, shared, "Being named a California Distinguished School is no small feat. It recognizes our exceptional educational programs, our positive school culture and the incredible progress we have made together to close the achievement gap and support student growth. I could not be prouder to work alongside such an outstanding team of educators and professionals."

Along with academics, Chico High celebrates the diverse opportunities available to every student, from the hands-on innovation in the college and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs to the championship spirit of the school's athletic teams and the creativity found in the arts. Whether students are competing in FFA events, participating in campus clubs such as robotics and chess, or engaging in academic labs, the culture at Chico High School is defined by a sense of belonging and their "Panther Pride."

"This recognition is more than a reflection of test scores and data; it is a clear testament to the educational commitment from staff and administrators," said Superintendent Greg Blake. "This recognition is a direct reflection of the heart and work found on the Chico High School campus every day. We are extremely proud of the Chico High School Team, the families who support students and everyone across the district who works to achieve high levels of educational success for our students."

Representatives from Chico High School will be officially honored for their achievements at a recognition ceremony scheduled for April 24, 2026.

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Additional Resources

Press Release from the California Department of Education (CDE):

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr26/yr26rel12.asp>