



**For Immediate Release:  
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**Black Diamond High Recognized as Model Continuation High School for 2020**  
School Receives Prestigious Distinction Twice During Three Year Period

**Pittsburg, CA...Monday, March 9, 2020** – Pittsburg Unified School District has received notification from the California Department of Education (CDE) congratulating Black Diamond High School for being among the top 43 [Model Continuation High Schools](#) (MCHS) for 2020. According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, schools on this distinguished list are helping students thrive personally and academically and are model schools that give students a chance to not only succeed in high school, but in life. Black Diamond was selected based on a comprehensive and competitive application process that involved assessments, data, and an onsite visit by a peer review panel. In 2017, the school was also selected as a MCHS. Receiving this distinction a second time is a huge honor for Pittsburg Unified School District.

“Congratulations to the Black Diamond Staff, Students, and Families on receiving this prestigious recognition from the State,” said Dr. Janet Schulze, Superintendent, Pittsburg Unified School District. “Black Diamond first received this recognition in 2017. To qualify and be selected again for another three-year term is a testament to the strong culture and dedication of the Black Diamond Community. You make us Pittsburg Proud!”

Black Diamond High is a continuation high school in Pittsburg Unified School District. It serves students 16 -18 years of age who are behind in credits and are at risk for not completing their education. The program delivers a standards-based education, using

the same instruction materials used at Pittsburg High School. However, class sizes are smaller, with no more than 20 students per class. The school has focused on implementing a comprehensive Restorative Justice program, as well as cross content instruction and collaborative programs with Los Medanos Community College. The MCHS program honors continuation high schools for the comprehensive services they provide at-risk youth through instructional strategies, flexible scheduling, guidance, and counseling.

“To once again receive this distinction is a tremendous honor,” said Brian Wilson, Principal of Black Diamond High School. “Staff members worked very hard to prepare the report and to show the visiting committee that we put an extensive amount of thought, preparation, and care into providing an exceptional educational environment for our students. To receive this recognition helps to highlight the excellent work done by our teachers, counselors, support staff, families and community members. I’m extremely proud that Black Diamond has been recognized again as a Model Continuation High School.”

Black Diamond’s Model Continuation High School status will be recognized for three years. The school will also be honored in San Diego at the 2020 CCEA State Conference in May. The MCHS Recognition Program is a collaborative partnership between the [California Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) and the [California Continuation Education Association \(CCEA\)](#).

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### **About Pittsburg Unified School District**

**Video about PUSD:** <https://youtu.be/X2xn3HOavfM>.

Awarded the College Board’s Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll award in 2016 for expanding access to college, [Pittsburg Unified School District](#) (PUSD) is one of 130 school districts across the nation recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. PUSD is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one continuation high school, an adult school, independent study options, and a preschool program, the school district serves more than 11,300 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.