



CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER JOHN CHIANG

# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: [Marc Lifsher](mailto:news@sto.ca.gov)  
[news@sto.ca.gov](mailto:news@sto.ca.gov)  
916-653-2995

## Treasurer's Innovative Scholar Dollars Program Awards \$300,000 to Support Under-Funded Extracurricular Activities, After-School Programs

*20 K-8 Public and Charter Schools to Receive Grants Ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000*

**SACRAMENTO** – State Treasurer John Chiang today announced that 20 schools in California will be awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to support critical after-school programs and extracurricular activities.

“At a time when California schools struggle just to have the latest textbooks and basic supplies, programs that provide students with a well-rounded education often get tossed to the side,” Treasurer Chiang said. “Our Scholar Dollars grants will help these schools fund exciting academic initiatives, from the expansion of arts and sciences programs to the construction of cutting-edge technology labs and state-of-the-art athletic facilities.”

ScholarShare, California's 529 savings plan, administered the Scholar Dollars program. Eligible K-8 public and charter schools registered and then engaged their communities to vote for a chance to win one of the 20 available grants. Grants were available in varying amounts according to school size.

Scholar Dollars was immensely successful in its inaugural year, with more than 390 schools across the state registering and over 411,000 votes cast by parents, relatives, boosters and community members.

Winning schools came from the following cities: Burbank, Camarillo, Campbell, Carson, Castro Valley, Los Angeles, Northridge, Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Ana, South Gate, Visalia, Westminster and Windsor.

One of the grant winners, [South Gate Middle School](#), a Title I school in South Gate that serves more than 2,000 students, plans to use the \$25,000 grant to design a Makerspace and technology lab to encourage students to build, explore and create. The lab's goal is to help students develop critical thinking, communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

“Our school is overjoyed to have been selected to receive a Scholar Dollars grant,” said Janet Mack, principal at South Gate Middle School. “The grant will give us the boost we need to create our innovation lab and broaden our scope of learning for our students.”

Another grant recipient, [Cali Calmecac Language Academy](#) in Windsor, plans to use its \$20,000 grant to purchase Google Chromebooks to help increase learning and aid in enrichment.

During the next month, Treasurer Chiang will visit select campuses across the state to present winning schools with their Scholar Dollars grant awards. View the full schedule, below.

To learn more about the grant program, visit [MyScholarDollars.com](#).

### **Schedule of Award Presentations for Scholar Dollars Grants**

4/24 – Sacramento, Calif. (William Land Elementary School)

5/5 -- South Gate, Calif. (South Gate Middle School)

5/8 – Castro Valley, Calif. (Golden Oak Montessori)

5/16 – Westminster, Calif. (Sequoia Elementary School)

### **About the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan**

To sign up for an account or for more information about the plan, visit [www.scholarshare.com](#). For information about the ScholarShare Investment Board (SIB), visit [www.treasurer.ca.gov/scholarshare](#). Like ScholarShare on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/scholarshare529](#) and follow us on Twitter at @ScholarShare529.

Named for the section of the IRS code under which they were created, 529 plans offer valuable tax advantages. Contributions are made with money that has already been taxed. Once funds are placed in the account, investment earnings, if any, are not federally or state taxed, if withdrawn to pay for qualified higher education expenses.

The ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan Twitter and Facebook pages are managed by the State Treasurer's Office.

### **List of Scholar Dollars School Winners**

School	City	Principal	Grant Amount
Francophone Charter School of Oakland	Oakland	Lori MacDonald	\$5,000
Golden Oak Montessori of Hayward	Castro Valley	Gena Engelfried	\$5,000
Village	Campbell	James Crawford	\$5,000
Magnolia Science Academy 7	Northridge	Fatih Metin	\$5,000
Multnomah Street Elementary	Los Angeles	Narajphan Asavasopon	\$10,000
Sequoia Elementary	Westminster	Michelle Watkins	\$10,000
William Land Elementary	Sacramento	Ellen Carlson	\$10,000
Willmore Elementary	Westminster	Nicole Jacobson	\$10,000

Leonardo Da Vinci	Sacramento	Devon Davis	\$15,000
Shannon Ranch Elementary	Visalia	Tara Sharp	\$15,000
Judith F. Baca Arts Academy	Los Angeles	Tracye McWhorter	\$15,000
Monte Vista Middle	Camarillo	Joseph Herzog	\$15,000
Santiago Elementary	Santa Ana	Norris Perez	\$20,000
Luther Burbank Middle	Burbank	Oscar Macias	\$20,000
Sutter Middle	Sacramento	Cristin Tahara-Martin	\$20,000
Cali Calmecac Language Academy	Windsor	Jeanne Acuna	\$20,000
Stephen M. White Middle	Carson	Adaina Brown	\$25,000
Thomas Starr King Middle School Film and Media Magnet	Los Angeles	Mark Naulls	\$25,000
Alfred B. Nobel Charter Middle	Northridge	Derek Horowitz	\$25,000
South Gate Middle	South Gate	Janet Mack	\$25,000

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