



# El Monte Union High School District

*Community Committed to College and Career*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Fernando R. Ledesma High Named a 2018 Model Continuation High School**

Ledesma is one of 32 schools to earn 3-year designation

**EL MONTE** – Fernando R. Ledesma High School is one of 32 schools in the state to be recognized as a 2018 Model Continuation High School, a designation awarded by the California Department of Education to schools that provide exemplary programs to at-risk youth through the use of innovative instructional strategies, flexible scheduling, and guidance and counseling services.

“Every day, our teachers and staff unite in their shared goal of addressing our students’ academic, social and emotional well-being, while cultivating a safe and caring learning environment in which they can overcome obstacles and succeed,” Principal Freddy Arteaga said. “Being among the few schools selected across the state as Model Continuation High Schools is a testament to the supportive culture we have worked hard to foster.”

Continuation schools provide a high school diploma program for students who have not graduated from high school, are required to attend school, and are at risk of not completing their education.

This year’s Model Continuation Schools were selected based on a comprehensive and competitive application process that involves effectiveness, assessments, and use of data. The process included a peer review panel and an on-site visit.

Ledesma, which has twice been previously awarded the designation, has incorporated technology campus-wide to produce college-ready students. Every classroom is equipped with computers and most have SMART/ENO technology boards that teachers use for daily instruction. Teachers regularly receive curricular and instructional development.

The school has also incorporated a variety of scheduling options for the 320 students enrolled, allowing for smaller class sizes and one-on-one support. Instructional aides and college-aged tutors provide additional assistance to students.

Students are provided scholarship opportunities and participate in leadership conferences, college fairs, field trips, financial aid workshops and the School Resource Officer Program with the El Monte Police

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Department. Students and staff give back to the community through food drives, community service projects and blood drives for the City of Hope.

Attendance rates have increased steadily each year since 2013, reaching a peak of 78 percent in 2017. According to school data, 98 percent of students participated in the CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress), the state's official system of assessments.

Ledesma High, which will retain its designation for three years, will be recognized at the 2018 California Continuation Education Association (CCEA) State Conference in April.

"We are incredibly excited to call Fernando R. Ledesma High a three-time Model Continuation High School," Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. "I want to thank Mr. Arteaga for his leadership and thank Ledesma teachers and staff for providing our students the supportive environment they need to make positive changes in their own lives."

**PHOTO CAPTION:**

**022718\_EMUHSD\_LEDESMA:** Fernando R. Ledesma High School is one of 32 schools in the state to be recognized as a 2018 Model Continuation High School, highlighting its ability to foster a welcoming environment that is conducive to academic success.

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*The vision of the El Monte Union High School District is to empower and motivate our students to be resilient, college and career ready, lifelong learners and contributing members of our global society.*