



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 24, 2013

Mr. Shaheer Faltas, Executive Director
Journey School
27102 Foxborough
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Re: Participation in Education Built to Last National Tour

Dear Shaheer:

Heartfelt thanks for your participation in the U.S. Department of Education's "Education Built to Last" facilities best practices tour. Secretary Arne Duncan announced the tour in June; since then, senior federal officials have traveled the country to learn from U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS).

Regarding the tour, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said, "I'm thrilled to see these outstanding schools showcased as part of the national tour on best practices. The students, teachers, parents, and communities have made countless efforts to improve the environmental sustainability of their campuses, increase school health as well as boost academic achievement."

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to your school on September 16, 2013. Kudos to you, Michelle Spieker, and all of the Journey parents, staff, and students on your many accomplishments. It's clear that you truly are "growing the whole child green." We were so impressed with the consciousness and confidence of your wonderful students. In addition, your outdoor learning environments are simply inspired.

Congratulations on your continued recognition as a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School. Your school models best practices that can be implemented universally, by schools in disparate regions, with disparate resources. We wish you our best for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Moore
Director, School Facilities & Transportation
Services Division

Lesley Taylor
Consultant, School Facilities & Transportation
Services Division