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Print Page

August 26, 2016 9:41AM

Newberry Springs school takes gold

VICTORVILLE — Newberry Springs Elementary School struck gold Wednesday.

The transitional kindergarten through fifth grade school within the Silver Valley Unified School District was recognized as a gold winner by the California PBIS Coalition for successful PBIS implementation. It is the only High Desert School to receive a gold medal.

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. It uses a proactive approach to establish the behavioral supports and social culture needed for students to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

Newberry Elementary and other Barstow area schools were honored with the the California PBIS Coalition awards at a ceremony Wednesday at Silverado High School. Schools received bronze, silver and gold awards.

Five other schools from Silver Valley Unified School District received awards. And five Barstow Unified School Districts received awards.

The award ceremony was hosted by the California Association of Health and Education Linked Profession. County Superintendent Ted Alejandre and CAHELP CEO Jenae Holtz congratulated each school. The schools represented 14 districts in the High Desert and mountains region.

"There is a little hidden gem in the middle of the Mojave Desert," a Silver Valley Unified School District press release said of Newberry Springs Elementary.

"A small school with great school culture, low student discipline issues, high attendance rate, positive and safe environment and excellent test scores.

"In using the expectations set forth in the PBIS program, students are given a proactive approach to establishing behavioral supports. With everyone, students and staff, knowing what the school expectations are in every area this allows the students to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Newberry's



Heidi Chavez, center, of Newberry Springs Elementary School in the Silver Valley Unified School District, along with her coworkers, receive the California PBIS Coalition Recognition Gold Award at the PBIS recognition event and showcase at Silverado High School on Wednesday. David Pardo, Daily Press

attendance improved from 95 percent in 2012-13 to 96 percent in 2015-16. Newberry reduced the number of suspensions from 15 in 2012-13 to one in 2015-16."

The school's name will be displayed on the California PBIS coalition webpage and acknowledged at the first annual California PBIS Coalition Conference in Sacramento on Sept. 22.

Jerry Lewis Elementary, Yermo School and Silver Valley High School all received bronze medals. Fort Irwin Middle School and Tiefert View Intermediate received silver status.

In the Barstow Unified School District, Central High School, Henderson Elementary and Skyline North Elementary all received bronze medals. Barstow High School and Barstow Junior High School earned silver.

"We are making progress," said Joni James, director of pupil services at Barstow Unified. "For all the schools it's a systematic culture change. It takes time. It's a getting your feet on the ground process."

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