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# Top-gaining teachers get big payday

Workers at 34 Bay Area schools awarded up to \$25,000 bonus

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A select group of California teachers who work in some of the state's most troubled schools were rewarded yesterday with onetime bonuses of \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000.

One of the flashier and more controversial ideas in Gov. Gray Davis' education reform plan, the big-time bucks go to every teacher, principal, nurse, counselor, librarian and computer specialist in the struggling schools that posted the best test-score jumps two years in a row on the state's Stanford 9 test.

In February, the state announced 1,346 schools that were eligible for the cash, then narrowed the list down to the 304 schools — including 34 in the Bay Area — that were posted on the Internet yesterday at [www.ose.ca.gov](http://www.ose.ca.gov).

About 7,500 teachers and administrators will receive \$5,000 each and 3,750 will receive \$10,000. At the schools with the biggest gains, 1,056 employees will receive the maximum bonus of \$25,000.

Just one Bay Area high school — Emery High School in Emeryville — made the list, along with 27 elementary schools and six middle schools. Just four hit the \$25,000 mark: Los Medanos Ele-

mentary School in Pittsburg, Garfield Elementary School in San Leandro, Pescadero Elementary in Pescadero and George Hall Elementary in San Mateo.

"The program is designed to attract and retain our best teachers and staff where the need is greatest," said state Education Secretary Kerry Mazzoni.

Although the money was a welcome relief to teachers and principals who are feeling the pinch of an economic slowdown, many had philosophical objections to placing so much emphasis on test scores.

"Why don't they just pay teachers more all around?" said Principal Virginia Green, who, along with every member of her staff at Stege Elementary in Richmond, will receive \$10,000.

The average starting salary of a California teacher is \$34,000.

"No one is going to return the money, of course, but it's not how I would encourage teachers. It's not really an incentive because we are all working so hard every day," Green said.

Her school also received a separate state bonus award of \$400 per teacher earlier this year, and teachers used it mostly for supplies, she said.

But in protests around the state led by the California Teachers Association, some teachers sent the

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smaller bonuses back or donated them to charities and tutoring centers.

But the opponents are just loud, not numerous, Mazzoni said. For the past few months her office has been inundated with calls from teachers asking when the money is coming.

The Certificated Staff Performance rewards were delayed about six months because the California Department of Education, was sued by a group of Sacramento teachers who thought they were unjustly denied the bonuses. The teachers are still appealing a ruling against them.

A different Sacramento teach-

"There are so many poor schools working just as hard..."

KEVIN BUCKLEY  
Castro Valley science teacher

er, Frances Myatt, is ready to pay down her student loans with the \$10,000 she'll receive.

"All the teachers at my school are really excited about this," said Myatt, who teaches sixth grade at Woodlake Elementary School in Sacramento.

"A lot of the teachers are talking about a down payment on a house or college for their kids," she said.

The state will send the money to the state controller's office early this week, which will turn the money over to local school districts.

Every certificated staff member in the Emeryville school district will get an award. All three schools in the district made the list, despite the district declaring bankruptcy last year, a recall of the school board and the arrest of its former superintendent, J.L. Handy, for two felony counts of

misusing public funds.

In August, the state seized control of the tiny district and bailed it out with a \$3 million loan.

"It just shows the dedication of the people working inside the schools," said Kevin Buckley, who now teaches science at Castro Valley but was at Emery High last year, and so will be getting a bonus.

"Last year took a toll on me and a lot of other teachers who left the district, so this money is nice in one way. But it's not really right, either. There are so many poor schools working just as hard who also deserve it."

Emery High teacher Fran Farley is going to buy a new computer, send a couple thousand to a friend in Africa, and buy one of her students a pedigree puppy.

"And then I'm going to blow the rest!" she said.

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### Education rewards

The following schools will pass out big bonuses to every teacher, principal, vice principal, librarian, nurse and computer technology expert:

**High school: \$5,000** to Emery High, Emeryville.

**Middle schools: \$10,000** to Emery Middle, Emeryville; Ben Franklin Intermediate, San Mateo and Burnett Middle School, San Jose; and \$5,000 to Riverview Middle, Bay Point; Brownell Academy of Fine Arts and Humanities, Gilroy and Grange Middle School, Fairfield.

**Elementary schools: \$25,000** to Garfield Elementary, San Leandro; Los Medanos Elementary, Pittsburg; Pescadero Elementary, Pescadero and George Hall Elementary, San Mateo; **\$10,000** to Cragmont Elementary, Berkeley; Anna Yates Elementary, Emeryville; Stege Elementary, Richmond; Colma Elementary, Daly City; Lomita Park Elementary, San Bruno; Meadows Elementary, San Jose; Spangler Elementary, Milpitas; Erikson Elementary, San Jose; Mann Elementary, San Jose; Page Elementary, Cotati and **\$5,000** to Treeview Elementary, Hayward; Brentwood Elementary, Brentwood; Meadow Homes Elementary, Concord; Rio Vista Elementary, Rio Vista; Heights Elementary, Pittsburg; Woodstock Elementary, Alameda; Sunnybrae Elementary, San Mateo; Los Cerritos Elementary, South San Francisco; Burnett Elementary, Milpitas; Edenvale Elementary, San Jose; Willow Glen Elementary, San Jose; Federal Terrace Elementary, Vallejo and Bellevue Elementary, Santa Rosa.