



# News Release

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## **Cal/EPA Announces Manteca Unified School District is the First to Implement Landmark EEI Curriculum**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** –Today, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Linda Adams applauded the Manteca Unified School District for being the first district in the state to implement California’s landmark EEI Curriculum. The announcement will be made at a kick-off event featuring Hollywood actor and environmentalist Ed Begley, Jr. at the Gen7 Green Learning Center from 3:45 pm to 5:45 pm at 787 Spreckels Avenue in Manteca.

“I am thrilled that Manteca saw the EEI curriculum as an opportunity to educate its students with the most up to date curriculum on environmental education,” said Secretary Adams. “This curriculum gives students the opportunity to learn hands-on environmental lessons in history and social science, and will generate environmentally responsible citizens at an impressionable age. My hope is that as future leaders, these students learn the valuable lesson of preserving our environment for all that it has to offer.”

The curriculum includes 85-units of environment-related education in the traditional subjects of Science and History/Social Science for grades K-12<sup>th</sup>. It was developed in partnership with business, non-profits, state agencies and education partners. The curriculum is available online and EEI hopes to be able to provide printed versions and teacher training in the coming years. The EEI curriculum has no state fiscal impact and is instead trying to raise funds through private donations.

The curriculum has already been both field and pilot tested in 19 California school districts over the last two years, providing invaluable feedback and rave reviews from participating teachers and students. The EEI curriculum also underwent a comprehensive review by State Board of Education-designated independent reviewers in the Summer of 2009. To see draft versions of the units, visit [www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Curriculum/Default.htm#CurriculumUnits](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Curriculum/Default.htm#CurriculumUnits).

“Students today will be responsible for making the decision that influence the health of the world in which we live. The EEI curriculum provides the foundation to prepare students to be informed, environmentally conscious, decision makers,” said Jack O’Connell, Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education.

“California is currently poised to become a national leader in environmental literacy. This first-in-the-nation environmental curriculum will help change the way we look at solving our environmental problems and is designed to help prepare today’s students to become future scientists, economists and green technology leaders,” said Secretary Adams.

Leading the way is Manteca Unified School District (MUSD). Manteca will be the first district in the state to implement the curriculum and plans to train the first thirty teachers today at

Manteca based American Modular Systems, who manufacture Gen7, high performance, and green classrooms.

Victoria Brunn, Energy Education Specialist and the Sustainability Coordinator for the Manteca Unified School District's Leadership on Green Initiatives Committee (LOGIC), says the district is excited to launch the curriculum in December. "We hope to implement EEI in second through sixth grade and in freshman earth science." Manteca has been committed to encouraging environmental stewardship and had developed some environmental coursework on its own but was looking for ways to enhance the current program. "We'd looked at a number of different curricula," Brunn says. "We felt EEI was the strongest. The curriculum looks at environmental issues from a global perspective."

Co-Founder of American Modular Systems, Tony Sarich, is a strong advocate for environmental education. "We are excited to host the launch of EEI and are committed to assisting the district with implementation of this innovative curriculum. While our company is transforming the way classrooms are built, we are committed to taking a leadership role in the community to encourage environmental stewardship."

The California Environmental Protection Agency is actively engaged in the implementation of EEI pursuant to AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003-PDF) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005-PDF). These landmark laws mandate the development of a unified education strategy to bring education about the environment into California's primary and secondary schools. The 2003 law was sponsored by Heal the Bay, a non-profit environmental organization in Southern California, who has been an active partner in the EEI curriculum's development. Other current key partners include the State Board of Education, the Office of the Secretary of Education, the Curriculum and Supplemental Materials Commission, the State Department of Education (CDE), and the California Natural Resources Agency.

MUSD is dedicated to all students achieving their academic goals and personal potential. LOGIC coordinates efforts to create sustainable practices throughout MUSD and encourages learning through environmental stewardship. To learn more about MUSD and LOGIC, visit [musd.schoolspan.com](http://musd.schoolspan.com).

American Modular Systems (AMS), one of the largest modular manufacturers in the West, designs and builds commercial, institutional and educational facilities. With the addition of Gen7 — high-quality, energy-efficient, eco-friendly classrooms — the California-based builder is helping communities create healthy, sustainable learning environments that will benefit students for generations to come. To learn more about Gen7 classrooms, visit [Gen7schools.com](http://Gen7schools.com).

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