



News Release

Contact: Martin Ackley, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, 517-241-4395
Bill DiSessa, Spokesperson, 517-335-6649

Thirteen Michigan Schools Awarded 2017 National Blue Ribbon Recognition

September 28, 2017

LANSING – Thirteen exemplary, high-performing schools in Michigan are being recognized as 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) reported today.

“Michigan schools work hard each year to create high-quality learning environments that encourage all students to achieve and succeed,” said State Superintendent Brian Whiston. “Academic accomplishments such as these serve as milestones to be celebrated on our way to make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years.”

Named as 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) are these public schools and their districts:

- Brewster Elementary School, Rochester Community School District
- Countryside Elementary School, Byron Center Public Schools
- Dix Street Elementary, Otsego Public Schools
- Forest View Elementary School, Cadillac Area Public Schools
- Gallimore Elementary School, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
- Hamlin Elementary School, Rochester Community School District
- Handley School, Saginaw City School District
- Iris Becker Elementary School, Dearborn City School District
- John Allen School, Ann Arbor Public Schools
- Lewis Maire Elementary School, Grosse Pointe Public School
- Lincoln School, St. Joseph Public Schools
- Pinewood School, Jenison Public Schools
- Rochester Adams High School, Rochester Community School District

“The hard work and dedication devoted by these students, educators, families, and community exemplify their commitment to student excellence and progress,” Whiston said. “Great job and Go Michigan’s National Blue Ribbon Schools!”

Last year, 13 public schools and one parochial school in Michigan received the national honor, out of 330 schools in 41 states. The MDE nominates 13 public schools annually for this award in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category. Public schools are nominated by each state's Department of Education and non-public schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

This year, the USED is honoring 342 National Blue Ribbon Schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 6-7 in Washington, D.C. Each school receives a banner and plaque. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will preside over the ceremonies.

In its 35-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award upon more than 8,500 of America's public and private schools.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- *Exemplary High Performing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates are also at the highest levels.
- *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels.

The Blue Ribbon School Program was the brainchild of the second Secretary of Education, Terrel H. Bell, named by President Reagan. Best known for commissioning the study of American education that resulted in *A Nation at Risk*, Bell created the Blue Ribbon Schools Award in 1982 to bring public attention to the best schools in the nation, and to facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools.

For more information on the National Blue Ribbon School program and the U.S. Department of Education's press release, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BLUE RIBBONS SCHOOLS, CONTACT:

U.S. Department of Education Press Office:

(202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov

###