



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE NAMED A NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL?

The National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators that publicly recognizes schools for their positive educational advances. Your school was chosen by your State Education Agency based on outstanding performance in one of these three categories:

Category 1: Exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years

Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years

Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g., homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

Because only two schools per state can be selected as a National ESEA Distinguished School each year, this award is an especially prestigious honor for your school, staff and students. The best way for schools to benefit from this honor is to fully participate in all related Distinguished Schools activities, including those at the National ESEA Conference.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Our staff will need some additional information about your school's accomplishments. To tell us about your school:

- Use the link provided in the email you received (in which you were notified of your school's selection as a National ESEA Distinguished School) to either log in to your user account or create a new account on the Association website (www.ESEAnetwork.org.)
- From your Dashboard, click on the Distinguished School tab and follow the prompts to enter all required information about your school: demographics, photos, school contact information, successful program details, and local press contact information.
- Schedule a personal phone conversation with a staff member of the Association, from the Distinguished Schools tab in your account Dashboard. The purpose of the call is to cover all the details about your school's participation in the Distinguished Schools Program - including the process for registering for the Conference. It may be helpful to include your entire team on the call, to learn about the activities at the National ESEA Conference and ensure all of your team's questions are answered.

RECOGNITION

On the Website



A special Distinguished Schools section on the Association website provides information about past and present Distinguished Schools. The details you provide about your school will be included on the ESEA Network's database of all National ESEA Distinguished Schools. The database features an interactive map with school locations and photos, and allows users to search for particular characteristics such as teacher-to-student ratio, specific school programs, or demographics, to find schools of greatest interest.

With a Banner



A special award package will be delivered to your school in January. Contents of the package include an official banner - personalized with your school's name - to be displayed outside your school or hung indoors, a certificate suitable for framing, and 75 Distinguished School buttons to share with your staff. We encourage your team to wear the buttons at the Conference during the Distinguished Schools Celebration and group photo.

At the Conference



The National ESEA Conference is one of the most important annual professional development opportunities for all individuals working within the federal education programs. Over 3,000 attendees from across the nation convene at the Conference where more than 100 sessions are offered. Most recipients of the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award will send a team to attend the Conference to learn about other outstanding programs and participate in special events to honor the selected schools. Attendance at the Conference is an opportunity for your school to be acknowledged publicly for your efforts and is a continued investment in the success of your team.

In the News



Provide contact information for a local press organization of your choice and the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators will send them a press release. In addition, your school will be included in a December press release sent to national newspapers announcing all of the recipients of this year's National ESEA Distinguished Schools award.

2020 NATIONAL ESEA CONFERENCE

February 4-7, 2020 Atlanta, GA

Register for the Conference

Each member of your school or district staff who will attend the Conference and wants to participate in Distinguished School activities, must register separately. It is critical these registration instructions are followed exactly. Failure to register in this fashion could exclude them from the festivities.

From the Distinguished Schools tab in your account Dashboard:

- Use the email template provided under the Conference Participation checklist item to send instructions to each person from your school who will be registering for the Conference.
- This email contains a special link to create an account as a member of a Distinguished School.
- Only accounts created from this link will have access to register for the Conference as a Distinguished School Attendee.

IMPORTANT: A list of all registered attendees from your school will be available in your account Dashboard. Individuals from your school will be clearly marked as Distinguished School attendees. We urge you to check this list several times before the Conference, to ensure each member of your team has registered correctly.

Call us immediately if a member of your staff is not listed.

VIDEO ON DEMAND

As a National ESEA Distinguished School principal, you have been awarded a complimentary three-month subscription to Video On Demand. A powerful professional development tool, Video On Demand offers high quality video presentations on a wide variety of education topics. You are encouraged to use a projector to view sessions as a group to further your team's professional development. Sign-up any time for a Video On Demand subscription at any level, and a \$39.00 credit will automatically be applied at checkout.

QUESTIONS?

Call the ESEA Network at 800-256-6452

DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS CELEBRATION

The National ESEA Conference features a festive celebration to honor all of the current Distinguished Schools. Celebration participants are encouraged to wear school colors or costumes and carry flags to get into the spirit. Your team will have a brief moment in the spotlight as your school is recognized for its achievement in front of all 3,000+ attendees.

ATTEND THE EXCLUSIVE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Distinguished School attendees are invited to this social event, hosted by the Association President. Don't miss this chance to interact with attendees from other Distinguished Schools across the country and meet federal education program leaders.

TAKE PART IN A GROUP PHOTO

Distinguished Schools have the opportunity to gather for a group photo to commemorate this prestigious honor.



NATIONAL ESEA
**DISTINGUISHED
SCHOOLS**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS



NATIONAL ESEA

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• **PRESS RELEASE EXAMPLE** •

Attention “Your Local Press,”

For Immediate Release:

LOCAL SCHOOL NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR SUCCESS IN 2019

For more information about the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators:

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Deputy COO

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www.ESEAnetwork.org

About the school:

“Your school’s public contact,
your school’s public contact phone number,
your school’s public contact email address”

“Today’s Date”:

The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) is pleased to announce that “your school name” from “your city and state” has been named a National ESEA Distinguished School by the state education agency in “your state.” “Your school name” is one of up to 100 schools throughout the country that is being nationally recognized for exceptional student achievement in 2019. A project of the NAESPA, the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program publicly recognizes qualifying federally funded schools for the outstanding academic achievements of their students. It highlights the efforts of schools across the country making significant improvements for their students. The program has been in place since 1996, showcasing the success of hundreds of schools in one of three categories:

CATEGORY 1: Exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years

CATEGORY 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years

CATEGORY 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides additional resources for vulnerable students and federal grants to state educational agencies to improve the quality of public elementary and secondary education.

The Association is a membership organization made up of State ESEA Program Administrators, and their staff from each of the states and territories, charged with managing their state federal education program. They ensure compliance with federal regulations, but more importantly work to see that all children — especially those living in economically disadvantaged conditions — have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. NAESPA implements the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program to highlight selected schools that have successfully used their ESEA federal funds to improve the education for all students—including economically disadvantaged students. More information about all National ESEA Distinguished Schools is available on the ESEA Network website: www.ESEAnetwork.org.