

2018 National ESEA Distinguished Schools

Background Information

A project of the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA), each year the Distinguished Schools Program publicly recognizes qualifying schools receiving federal funding, from each state for their outstanding achievements. Because only two schools per state are selected each year as National ESEA Distinguished Schools, this award is an especially prestigious honor.

Qualifying Criteria

In order for a school to qualify for the Distinguished School award, it must have:

1. A poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year
2. Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years
3. Met or exceeded state-determined criteria based on two or more consecutive years of achievement data

Each state may select up to two qualifying schools. Each school selected must represent a different category from among the following three categories:

Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years.

Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups.

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

Selection Process

Each participating state may establish and implement its own process for measuring exemplary school effectiveness including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Teaching and learning based on the approved state academic standards
- Use of research/evidence-based instructional strategies
- Opportunities provided for each student to succeed
- Coordination of ESEA programs or other federal education programs
- Implementation of sustained research-based professional development
- Established partnerships with parents, families, and communities

The two schools must be selected and information submitted to NAESPA before November 30, 2018.

School Recognition

- The NAESPA website (www.ESEAnetwork.org) highlights the outstanding achievements of past and present Distinguished Schools.
- The selected schools from each state are invited to participate in the National ESEA Conference. This year the conference will be in Kansas City, MO, January 30-February 2, 2019.
- The two Utah LEAs with selected schools will receive a supplemental Title I grant of \$15,000 to support registration and travel for a school team to attend the conference to be publicly recognized.