

2019 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award

The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)-formerly the National Title I Association-has been selecting examples of superior, federally funded school programs for national recognition through the National ESEA Distinguished Schools program (recently renamed from its predecessor, the National Title I Distinguished Schools program) since 1996. These schools demonstrate a wide array of strengths, including team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individualized programs for student success and strong partnerships between the school, parents, and the community. What makes National ESEA Distinguished Schools' stories especially powerful are the documented student achievement gains that have results from their collaborative and targeted efforts and innovations.

The 73 schools honored at this year's conference in Atlanta, Georgia during February 4-7, 2020, were selected in 2019 by their individual states based on a combination of student academic achievement and the creative and innovative programs that contributed to their success. They joined hundreds of other distinguished schools making a difference for our nation's children.

The program showcases the success of schools in one of two categories which has a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year:

- **Category 1:** Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years
- **Category 2:** Closing the achievement gap between student groups

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

The following 2019 Distinguished Schools were recognized for the State of Arkansas:

Exceptional Student Performance for Two Consecutive Years

Greenbrier Wooster Elementary

Greenbrier School District
Amber Brantley, Principal
Darren Scott Spainhour, Superintendent

Bismarck Elementary

Bismarck School District
Lana Hughes, Principal
Susan Kissire, Superintendent