



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON HONORS AWARDED TO FOUR NEBRASKA SCHOOLS

Four Nebraska schools have been named as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2017. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

The four Nebraska schools were among 342 schools nationwide recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels.

The Nebraska schools that were honored are:

- Calvert Elementary School, Auburn Public Schools in Auburn
- Dundee Elementary School, Omaha Public Schools in Omaha
- Paddock Road Elementary School, Westside Community Schools in Omaha
- Pender Elementary School, Pender Public Schools in Pender

“National Blue Ribbon Schools are active demonstrations of preparing every child for a bright future,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to the honorees. “You are visionaries, innovators and leaders. You have much to teach us: some of you personalize student learning, others engage parents and communities in the work and life of your local schools and still others develop strong and forward-thinking leaders from among your teaching staff.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.

All schools are honored 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.
- 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.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by The Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

The Department will honor 292 public and 50 private schools on Nov. 6-7 at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbon-schools>.

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