



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2022

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Alabama
State Board
of Education

TWO LOCAL SCHOOLS EARN TOP NATIONAL AWARD FOR
CONTINUED GROWTH IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Montgomery, Ala. – Two Alabama schools have officially been named *2023 National ESEA Distinguished Schools*. These outstanding and high performing schools are:

Jackie Zeigler
District I

- *Newton Elementary School* – Dale County School System
 - Principal: Mr. Eric Andrews
- *Piedmont Elementary School* – Piedmont City School System
 - Principal: Ms. Bridgett Stewart

Tracie West
District II
President Pro Tem

Each year, up to two qualifying federally funded schools per state are selected to receive this prestigious honor. Selected schools are recognized for their exceptional academic achievement and student support.

Stephanie Bell
District III

The National ESEA Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools that successfully use Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) federal funds to improve learning opportunities for all students.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

To qualify in Alabama, schools must meet the following criteria:

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

- Receive Title I-A funds
- Have a poverty rate of at least 60 percent or greater
- Demonstrate high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Newton Elementary School is our state’s Category 2 Representative this year. This high achieving school has had real success in *closing the achievement gap* of its student population. Newton Elementary School has increased its overall student achievement by approximately 13 percent.

Belinda McRae
District VII

Piedmont Elementary School is our state’s Category 1 Representative. This top local school has had exceptional academic achievement for more than two consecutive years. Throughout this period, Piedmont Elementary School has established an achievement rate of 60 percent on the *Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative test* for reading and math.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
Vice President

ACAP is a criterion-referenced assessment, designed to measure student progress on the Alabama Courses of Study Standards. The assessment is administered to students once a year and includes the content areas of English language arts, math, and science (Grades 4, 6, and 8 only).

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

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2023 National ESEA Distinguished Schools – Piedmont and Newton Elementary Schools

Both Piedmont Elementary School and Newton Elementary School will be recognized at the upcoming National ESEA Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 1-4.

To learn more about the National ESEA Distinguished Schools initiative, contact Alabama State Department of Education Specialist Jennifer Connell at jennifer.connell@ALSDE.edu

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