



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALABAMA SCHOOLS WILL TRAVEL TO OREGON TO RECEIVE NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS AWARD

Montgomery, Ala. – Two Alabama schools will be recognized at the upcoming National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Conference in Portland, Oregon, on February 7-10, 2024 - <https://www.eSeanetwork.org/conference>

Each was officially named a National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) Distinguished Schools award winner, earlier this year:

- **Vernon Elementary School**, *Lamar County School System*,
Superintendent: Mr. Alan Vance Herron, Principal: Ms. Tracey S. Walker
- **Saraland City Elementary School**, *Saraland City School System*,
Superintendent: Dr. Aaron Milner, Principal: Dr. Stan Stokley

Vernon Elementary School was selected for Category 1: *Exceptional Student Performance for Two or More Consecutive Years*. This outstanding school has shown exceptional student performance during the last two years, with an average achievement rate of 69 percent and also an average growth rate of 85 percent.

Some of the criteria to be selected for Category 1 status this year included:

- The selected school must have been serving as a Title I-A school.
- The selected school must have demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years as defined by an achievement rate of 65 percent or greater (combined reading and math).

Saraland Elementary School was selected for Category 3: *Excellence in Serving English Learners*. This outstanding school has shown excellence in serving this special population of students with a 100 percent growth rate and overall 75 percent achievement rate in English Learners, for the 2022-2023 school year.

The primary criteria to be selected for Category 3 status this year included:

- The selected school must have served as a Title I-A school.
- The selected school must have experienced a growth rate of 70 percent or higher in English Learners (combined reading and math).

To learn more about this nationally recognized initiative, contact ALSDE Federal Program Specialist Jennifer Connell at 334-694-4519 or jennifer.connell@ALSDE.edu

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