# Superintendent’s Memo #229-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 20, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: 2019-2020 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program

Virginia has received information regarding the application process for the 2019-2020 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program. This project, sponsored by the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators, recognizes qualifying schools from each state for their outstanding achievements in education. Only two schools per state are selected as National ESEA Distinguished Schools.

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

1. A poverty rate of at least 35 percent for each of the two most current consecutive school years;
2. Demonstrated exceptional academic achievement for two or more of the most current consecutive school years; and
3. Met full state accreditation for two or more consecutive years.

A school may be nominated to represent one of the following categories:

* *Category 1*: Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years;
* *Category 2*: Closing the achievement gap between student groups; or
* *Category 3*: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g., homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.).

School divisions are invited to nominate **one** school to represent one of the three categories indicated above. The 2019-2020 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program intent to submit form, instructions for developing the application, and school participation form are attached.

School divisions wishing to nominate a school should submit an Intent to Apply form (Attachment A) by email to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov by Friday, October 4, 2019. The application must be submitted electronically to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2019 (Attachment B). On the email subject line, indicate the school division’s name and the category. Each application must be accompanied by the School Participation Form (Attachment C).

Recipients of the National ESEA Distinguished School award will be notified by letter in November. The selected schools will be honored during the 2020 National ESEA Conference, February 4 -7, 2020, in Atlanta, Georgia.

For questions regarding this program, please contact Latonia Anderson, Title I Specialist, at (804) 225-2907 or Latonia.Anderson@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/la

### Attachments:

### [National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program – 2019-2020 School Intent to Apply Form (Word)](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/229-19a.docx)

### [National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program – 2019-2020 Instructions for Developing the Application (Word)](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/229-19b.docx)

### [National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program – 2019-2020 School Participation Form (Word)](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/229-19c.docx)