



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

DATE: September 28, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

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

**SUBJECT: 2018-2019 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program**

Virginia has received information regarding the application process for the 2018-2019 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program. This project, *formerly known as the National Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program*, is sponsored by the National ESEA Association. This program 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. A review process will be used to select two Virginia schools for national recognition. The 2018-2019 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](mailto:ESSA@doe.virginia.gov) by **Friday, October 5, 2018**. The application must be submitted electronically to the referenced email address by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2018** (Attachment B). On the email subject line, please 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 two selected schools will be honored during the 2019 National ESEA Conference, January 30 - February 2, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

JFL/la

**Attachments:**

- A. National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program – 2018-2019 School Intent-to-Apply Form (Word)
- B. National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program – 2018-2019 Instructions for Developing the Application (Word)
- C. National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program – 2018-2019 School Participation Form (Word)