



NJDOE News

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DOE Announces 2004 New Jersey Title I Distinguished Schools

Chelsea Heights Elementary School in Atlantic City, Gladys Cannon Nunnery School #29 in Jersey City and Robert Treat Academy Charter School in Newark have been selected as New Jersey's 2004 Title I Distinguished Schools by the Department of Education.

The three schools were selected for their overall effectiveness in curriculum, instruction and professional development, for the working partnerships that they have established with the families of their students and the surrounding communities, and for other innovations that have contributed to their extraordinary student success.

"These schools have shown continuous improvement in their test scores and have made significant strides in closing the achievement gap," said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. "We are proud to recognize and commend these dedicated administrators, teachers, parents and students."

"What we have here are three authentic New Jersey success stories," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "The accomplishments we're seeing at these schools prove that when the focus is continually on teaching and learning, all children can succeed."

The principal of each school has received a \$1,000 award, to be used to continue the school's academic achievement efforts.

In addition, New Jersey's Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability nominated Gladys Nunnery School #29 and Chelsea Heights Elementary School for recognition by the national Title I Distinguished Schools program. The two schools were honored at an awards ceremony in Atlanta on February 1.

Gladys Cannon Nunnery School was cited for exhibiting "exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years," and Chelsea Heights School represented New Jersey's Title I schools that "made the most progress in significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups."

Title I, established in 1965, is the largest federal aid program in K-12 education. Approximately 1,400 New Jersey schools receive Title I funding, which must be used to assist children who are not succeeding or who are at risk of not succeeding.

The 2004-2005 Title I Distinguished Schools Program is sponsored by the National Association of State Title I Directors. Title I staff in each state department of education nominated two schools based on the following criteria:

- A minimum school poverty rate of 40%
- Student achievement data demonstrating a high level of success
- NCLB adequate yearly progress met or exceeded for two consecutive years

In New Jersey, successful schools were first identified through an analysis of their test data. Each identified school then submitted a narrative describing the school's demographics, academic and extracurricular components, and the school's history of student achievement. A site visit conducted by NJDOE personnel followed.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education's Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.