



NJDOE News

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DOE Recognizes 2004-2005 Title I Distinguished Schools and Best Practices/Star Schools

The Department of Education will honor the selected 2004-2005 Title I Distinguished Schools and Best Practices/Star Schools at a recognition ceremony/luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center in Somerset on Thursday, June 2 at 12:00 noon.

The link to all of the honored schools and programs is here:

http://www.nj.gov/njded/news/2005/0601award_a.htm

The Title I Distinguished Schools and Best Practices/Star schools programs highlight outstanding classroom practices and curriculum and model schools of excellence throughout the entire state.

"In honoring these schools and programs, we honor their commitment to excellence in education," said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. "We are proud of the awardees' use of innovative and proven strategies that clearly show all of New Jersey's students can and will succeed."

"The fact that recipients of these awards come from all parts of the state illustrates that strong student achievement is widespread and growing in all of our districts," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "These schools and programs are not only success stories, but models for other districts to follow and learn from for even more advancements in the future."

The ceremony will honor three Title I Distinguished schools, six Star Schools and 31 Best Practices selected from a field of approximately 750 applications. Star Schools selected span the state.

The 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 and
- NCLB adequate yearly progress met or exceeded for two consecutive years

The Best Practices/Star Schools programs selected covered a range of activities from professional development programs to early childhood to exemplary programs that emphasize the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Applications for Best Practices/Star Schools are first reviewed by the county offices of education and then submitted to the Department of Education, where panels of experts review the work of their peers and rate each application.

A second review of the highest scoring applications is then conducted and the process culminates in the 37 site visits by panel members to verify the information in the applications.

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