



**For Immediate Release**

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## **NJ Department of Education Names 2020 National ESEA Distinguished Schools**

**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education today announced that the Thomas Jefferson Middle School of Lodi School District in Bergen County and the Sara M. Gilmore Academy of the Union City School District in Hudson County were named 2020 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished Schools.

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School is being recognized for excellence in serving its English learner student population, and the Sara M. Gilmore Academy is being recognized based on exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years.

“We are extremely proud of the work the teachers, administrators, families and, most importantly, the students have done to earn this recognition,” said Acting Education Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan.

The 2020 ESEA Distinguished Schools Program is sponsored by the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators. Each state in the association annually selects two schools to receive the award based on student progress and other indicators of school performance.

Each school will receive up to \$10,000 to support Title I programs, which are designed to assist schools with high percentages of children from low-income families. Each school will also be recognized along with other ESEA Distinguished Schools from across the nation at the virtual National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators Conference in February 2021. The attending staff from each recognized school will have an opportunity to participate in workshops, professional development, and best-practices presentations.

Visit the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (formerly the National Title I Association) to learn more about the [ESEA Distinguished Schools Program](#).

