

FEDERAL PROGRAMS MESSENGER

OCTOBER • 2016



NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program Has Been Recognizing Great American Schools Since 1982. The program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Each year the Office of Federal Programs receives the U .S. Department of Education’s Guidance for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program nomination process.

The guidance is used to develop Oklahoma’s nomination plan which is submitted and approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Office of Federal Programs staff review data and additional qualifying criteria to determine the Blue Ribbon School Nominees.

In order to be eligible for nomination, a school must meet several criteria based on the performance of its students on state assessments in reading (English Language Arts) and Mathematics. A school may be nominated in either of two performance award categories:

- ▶ *Exemplary High Performing Schools* are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates are also at the highest levels.
- ▶ *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* are among their state’s highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school’s subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels.

The Office of Federal Programs would like to extend our congratulations on the recognition of the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

- ▶ Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa Public Schools
- ▶ Northwood Elementary School, Piedmont Public Schools
- ▶ L. Mendel Rivers Elementary School, Altus Public Schools
- ▶ Sadler Arts Academy, Muskogee Public Schools

The National Blue Ribbon Schools awards ceremony is scheduled for Monday, November 7th and Tuesday, November 8th, 2016 in Washington D.C.

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BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

At the ceremony each school will receive a plaque and the National Blue Ribbon School flag as symbols of their National Blue Ribbon School status.

Please click on the link below to watch the announcement made by the U.S. Department of Education: [2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools Announcement by the U.S. Department of Education.](#)

For more information regarding the Blue Ribbon Schools Program, please visit www.sde.ok.gov or contact the Office of Federal Programs at (405) 521-2846.

FEDERAL Q & A

Q. What is an exemplary high performing school?

A. An exemplary high performing school must be in the top 15 percent of all schools in the state in Reading and Math.

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