



Nancy S. Grasmick
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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: January 25, 2011
SUBJECT: Recognition of Maryland's 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools

PURPOSE:

To recognize Maryland's 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM INFORMATION:

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program began in 1982 under Secretary of Education Terrell Bell. Its purpose has always been to showcase superior schools in America. Maryland has participated in the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program since 1983.

Maryland's Blue Ribbon Schools Program is administered by the Maryland State Department of Education and is the state counterpart of the National Program. Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools are nominated for national awards by the State Superintendent of Schools. Based on the state population, MSDE can identify up to six qualifying schools. The program recognizes elementary, middle, and high schools whose students exhibit sustained high performance and/or significant improvement and above average achievement on state assessments in mathematics and reading. High performing schools must be in the top 15% of all Maryland schools in their category (elementary, middle, high) and must show high performance as measured by five years of data on State assessments in mathematics and reading. Improving schools must demonstrate dramatic gains in mathematics and reading as measured by five years of data on State assessments. These schools must also reflect economically disadvantaged populations with, for example, a minimum of 40% of students qualifying for free and reduced-priced meals. Schools in this category must be in the top 40% of all Maryland schools in their category.



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NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON HONORS:

Five of our 2010 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools were selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools:

Eastern Technical High School (Baltimore County)
Northern Middle School (Calvert County)
New Market Elementary School (Frederick County)
Ellicott Mills Middle Schools (Howard County)
Northwestern Elementary School (Wicomico County)

They were honored by US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in Washington D.C. in November 2010. One of the Principals, Tom Evans, Principal of Eastern Technical High School, was also honored with a Terrell Bell Principal Award of Excellence. He was one of nine principals from across America so honored. This year 225 public and private schools were honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools. National winners were given the National Blue Ribbon School Flag and a U.S. Department of Education Plaque.

CORPORATE SPONSORS OF MARYLAND'S PROGRAM:

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ACTION:

Board President DeGraffenreidt and I will commend the 2010 National Blue Ribbon School principals. Governor's Citations and State Board Plaques will be presented to the national winners. Commemorative pictures will be taken.

P.S. State Board of Education Members should save the date for the 2011 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools State Dinner in Annapolis.

When: March 14, 2011 - Reception and Dinner: 5:00-7:30 pm
Where: Governor Calvert House, State Circle, Annapolis