



Office of ESEA Programs
National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program
2024-2025 Application Instructions & School Participation Form

Purpose:

The National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program is a project of National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) to recognize qualifying schools receiving federal funding for positive educational advances and outstanding academic achievement in education. Only two schools per state are selected as National ESEA Distinguished Schools. Each state may select a maximum of two qualifying schools with no more than one school per category:

- Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years
- Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups
- Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g., homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

For a school to be eligible for the National ESEA Distinguished School award, the school **must** have:

- A poverty rate of at least 35 percent for each of the two most current consecutive school years
- Demonstrated exceptional academic achievement for two or more of the most current consecutive school years
- Met full state accreditation for two or more consecutive years

Application Instructions:

1. Review the nominated school’s 2024-2025 Virginia School Quality Profile report to ensure the nominated school has met all eligibility criteria.
2. Complete the school participation form which must be attached to the application. The superintendent’s signature must be on the form.
3. Complete the application in narrative format following the application guidelines and submit the complete application by 3:00 p.m., Friday, October 18, 2024.



Application Guidelines:

The application should be in a narrative format and must be no more than 10 pages, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, and numbered pages.

The following areas should be addressed in the application:

- Description of the school community and demographics
- Description of the school's assessment results for the past two consecutive years
- Description of evidence-based instructional strategies implemented for core instruction
- Description of how current and past established partnerships and collaboration with parents, families, and community organizations have supported the initiative(s) that helped increase academic achievement
- Description of innovative and/or unique programs or strategies implemented that led to improved outcomes for school success for all students including professional development
- Description of special programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation for students who are disadvantaged and/or educationally at-risk
- Description of how the school uses data, interventions, and assessments to meet the diverse and individual needs of various student populations
- (Category 2) Identification of the specific student group or groups and a description of how the achievement gap was closed (including assessment results)
- (Category 3) Identification of special population/s and a description of how the school has excelled in meeting the diverse needs of the special population of students (including assessment results)
- Description of how ESEA program funds are used or have made an impact on student achievement and overall school success

Please direct your questions to Sarah Gallagher, Title I Specialist, at (804) 750-8151 or sarah.gallagher@doe.virginia.gov.

Application Due Date:

The 2024-2025 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program Application must be submitted electronically to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2024. On the email subject line, please indicate the **school division's name** and the **category**.



**2024- 2025 National ESEA Distinguished
School Participation Form**

The School Participation form must accompany the application.

Please check category of nomination:

- Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years
- Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups
- Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name:

School:

Name of Division Superintendent:

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.)

Email:

Phone:

Name of Person Submitting Application:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

School Mailing Address:

School Web site/URL:

Grades Served:

Name of Principal:

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.)

Phone:

Email:

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the eligibility requirements and certify, to the best of my knowledge, that it is accurate.

Signature of Division Superintendent
or Superintendent's Designee

Date