



#250-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #250-22**

DATE: October 28, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **United States Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools Program**

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce an opportunity for schools in Virginia to be recognized through the [U.S. Department of Education \(USED\) National Blue Ribbon Schools \(NBRS\) Program](#).

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes: 1) schools whose students achieve at very high levels; and 2) schools making significant progress in closing academic achievement gaps among student groups. The Virginia Department of Education will select Virginia nominees for the 2023 award year in the categories of *Exemplary High Performing Schools* and *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* based on the eligibility criteria required by USED. Minimum eligibility requirements for these recognitions can be found on the [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program website](#).

Virginia is permitted seven nominations across both recognition categories. If multiple schools meet the minimum requirements, final nomination selections are at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

School division staff are not required to determine whether a school meets all NBRS eligibility requirements before submitting a school name for consideration. If a Superintendent would like a school to be considered as a 2023 nominee from Virginia, an email can be sent to

Accountability@doe.virginia.gov by **Friday, December 2, 2022**. The subject line of the email should state *2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools*, and the body of the email should include the following information: full name of the division, full name of the school, phone number and email of the Superintendent, and phone number and email of the point of contact.

By January 27, 2023, the point of contact for each school division that submitted a school for consideration will be notified whether the school has been named as a Virginia nominee.

For more information

Questions should be directed to Amy Siepka, Director, Office of Accountability, at Accountability@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

JB/ABS/abs