



#285-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #285-21**

DATE: October 8, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2021-2022 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program**

Virginia has received information regarding the application process for the 2021-2022 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program. This project, sponsored by the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators, recognizes qualifying schools from each state for their outstanding achievements in education. Only two schools per state are selected as National ESEA Distinguished Schools.

In order for a school to qualify for the National ESEA Distinguished School award, the school must have:

1. a poverty rate of at least 35 percent for each of the two most current consecutive school years;
2. demonstrated exceptional academic achievement for two or more of the most current consecutive school years; and
3. met full state accreditation for two or more consecutive years.

A school may be nominated to represent one of the following categories:

- Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years;
- Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups; or

- Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g., homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.).

School divisions are invited to nominate one school to represent one of the three categories indicated above. If a division submitted an application for the 2020-2021 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program, the division may resubmit the 2020 -2021 application for reconsideration this year. The 2021-2022 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program instructions for developing the application and school participation form are attached (**Attachment A**).

School divisions wishing to nominate a school must submit an application electronically by email to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov by **3:00 p.m., Monday, October 25, 2021**. On the email subject line, indicate the school division's name and the category. Each application must be accompanied by the School Participation Form (**Attachment B**). Divisions that wish to resubmit a 2020-2021 application for consideration must indicate this on the School Participation form.

Recipients of the 2021-2022 National ESEA Distinguished School award will be notified by letter in November 2021. The selected schools will be honored during the 2022 National ESEA Conference held, February 16 -19, 2022, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

For more information

For questions regarding this program or about the application process, please contact Latonia Anderson, Title I Specialist, at (804) 225-2907 or Latonia.Anderson@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/la

- A. Attachment: [National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program - 2021-2022 Instructions for Developing the Application](#) (DOCX)
- B. Attachment: [National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition Program - 2021-2022 School Participation Form](#) (DOCX)