

NC Distinguished Schools

*Office of Federal Programs
February 6, 2025*



NATIONAL ESEA **DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS**

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS PROGRAM?

The National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Association of SEA State Program Administrators ([NAESPA](#)) that publicly recognizes qualifying federally-funded schools for positive educational advances and the outstanding academic achievement of their students.



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Established in 1996, the program showcases hundreds of schools identified by the State Education Agency for their success in one of three categories:

CATEGORY 1

Schools exhibiting exceptional student performance and academic growth

CATEGORY 2

Schools that have closed the achievement gap between student groups

CATEGORY 3

Schools that show excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

****During the 2024-25 School year, NC will recognize schools in Categories 2 and 3**

CATEGORY 2:

Schools that have closed the achievement gap between student groups

Finalists for Schools That Have Closed the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

- Central Elementary (Stanly County Schools)
- Club Boulevard Elementary (Durham Public Schools)
- Coltrane-Webb Elementary (Cabarrus County Schools)
- Howard L. Hall Elementary (Cumberland County Schools)
- Lucy S. Herring Elementary (Asheville City Schools)
- Mt. Ulla Elementary (Rowan-Salisbury Schools)
- New Hope Elementary (Orange County Schools)
- Northwest Elementary (Wayne County Public Schools)
- Stateside Elementary (Onslow County Schools)
- Triangle Math & Science Academy (Charter)

Central Elementary

(Stanly County Schools)



[Distinguished Schools: Central Elementary School](#)

CATEGORY 3:

**Schools that show excellence in serving special populations of students
(students with disabilities - SWD)**

Finalists for Schools That Show Excellence in Serving Special Populations

- Brevard Academy (Charter)
- Club Boulevard Elementary (Durham Public Schools)
- Eastover-Central Elementary (Cumberland County Schools)
- Falls Lake Academy (Charter)
- Forest City-Dunbar Elementary (Rutherford County Schools)
- Mangum Elementary (Durham Public Schools)
- Sallie B.Howard School (Charter)
- Stedman Elementary (Cumberland County Schools)
- Sterling Montessori Academy (Charter)
- Summerfield Charter Academy (Charter)

Sallie B Howard School

SALLIE B.
HOWARD SCHOOL
OF ARTS & SCIENCE

[Distinguished Schools: Sallie B. Howard School](#)

2025 ESEA Conference

