



SARALAND Board of Education

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Saraland Elementary School Receives Second National Recognition for Student Achievement

SARALAND, AL (January 31, 2018) – In November, Saraland Elementary School was named a National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Today, Saraland Elementary has also been named a National Title I Distinguished School by the Alabama State Department of Education. With this distinction, Saraland Elementary is one of 63 schools from across the country that is being nationally recognized by the National Title I Association for exceptional student achievement in 2017.

A project of the National Title I Association, the National Title I Distinguished Schools Program publicly recognizes qualifying Title I schools for the outstanding academic achievements of their students. It highlights the efforts of schools across the country making significant improvements for their students. The program has been in place since 1996, showcasing the success of hundreds of schools for exceptional student performance, closing the achievement gap between student groups, or excellence in serving special populations of students.

Title I is the cornerstone of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It is the largest federally funded pre-college education program in the United States and provides funding to school districts across the country to aid in the education of economically disadvantaged students. The National Title I Association is a membership organization made up of the Title I Directors from each of the states and territories, who are charged with managing their state Title I program to ensure compliance with federal regulations and to ensure that all children - especially those living in economically disadvantaged conditions - have the opportunity to receive a high quality education.

The National Title I Association implemented the National Title I Distinguished Schools Program to highlight selected schools that have successfully used their Title I federal funds to improve the education for economically disadvantaged students. As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, Saraland Elementary School is characterized by its *small town* spirit with *big goals* for student success. A place with a shared vision – one town – one team – one dream, where the faculty, staff, and community are devoted to students and committed to excellence.

Principal Stan Stokley reflecting on this honor stated, “This award is the result of a hard-working, dedicated staff who serve a wonderful group of students from the Saraland community.” This award affirms the commitment of educators, families, and the Saraland community to create a safe and welcoming school where students successfully master challenging and engaging content.

“We take great pride that Saraland Elementary School has been named nationally as one of the best. This award represents another example of the outstanding educational foundation provided to students enrolled in Saraland City Schools,” said Dr. Aaron Milner, Superintendent. “The sole reason for this recognition is our students’ level of achievement and evidence that Mr. Stokley and his staff consistently demonstrate their commitment to the children and their parents.”

The award will be officially presented to Saraland administration at the National Title I Conference in Philadelphia on February 9, 2018. More information about all National Title I Distinguished Schools is available on the National Title I Association website: www.titlei.org.

“Building a World Class Educational System for Our Children”