National ESEA Distinguished Schools

Title I Distinguished Schools are Title I schools that rank in the top 5% Schoolwide Program (SWP) and top 5% Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) schools in the state that have the highest absolute performance for the all-students group based on the current statewide assessments. A school may not be classified as a Title I Distinguished School if it is identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement School (TSI), a Comprehensive Support and Improvement School (CSI) or a Promise School.

Recognition

The two schools named Georgia’s National ESEA Distinguished Schools will receive:

- $20,000 from state Title I funds to facilitate participation in the NAESPA conference to participate in the National ESEA Distinguished Schools recognition ceremony.

- The two nationally identified schools may also receive recognition paraphernalia (flags, certificates, etc.) form the NAESPA organization.

Qualifying Criteria and Selection Process (Beginning 2020)

- Invite all Title I Distinguished Schools operating as SWP to make application for the National ESEA Distinguished recognition.

- Applications are submitted for review in one of the following categories:
  - Exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years
  - Closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years
  - Excellence in serving special populations of students.

- Applications received are assigned a number and identifying information redacted to provide complete anonymity to all readers/scorers.

- Applications are read blindly and scored on the scoring rubric by a minimum of three readers. The average of the three scores will be added to the other qualifying criteria: (1) CCRPI score for the most current year; (2) growth from previous year CCRPI and most current CCRPI; (3) Points based on the poverty percentage of the school's population. These points will be included in scoring rubric of the applications.

- The top two schools with the highest scores are named as Georgia’s representatives for the National ESEA Distinguished School Award sponsored by NAESPA. As per the National Association of ESSA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) guidelines, the two selected schools must be from different categories.