

SY 2018-2019 Title I Distinguished School Awards

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is pleased to announce two Title I Distinguished School awards. William Henry Burkhart Elementary School in Perry Township Schools is honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Exceptional Student Performance and Academic Growth for a Title I school from SY 2018-2019. Arlington Heights Elementary School in Monroe County Community School Corporation is honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Closing the Achievement Gap between Student Groups in a Title I school from SY 2018-2019.

The National Title I Association has been selecting examples of superior Title I school programs for national recognition through the National Title I Distinguished Schools program since 1996. These schools demonstrate a wide array of strengths, including team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individualized programs for student success and strong partnerships between the school, parents and the community. What makes National Title I Distinguished Schools' stories especially powerful are the documented student achievement gains that have resulted from their innovations.

Selected schools must qualify for one of the following categories:

Category 1: Exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years

Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years

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

Round 1: Eligible schools were identified based on a review of the following criteria:

<u>Exceptional Student Performance Category</u>	<u>Closing the Achievement Gap Category</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Student Achievement Data and School Letter Grade of an A or B (2017-2018, 2018-2019)● Subgroup performance and/or growth (e.g. students with disabilities)● Title I served school● Poverty data of 35% or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Student Achievement Data and School Letter Grade of A or B (2017-2018, 2018-2019)● Subgroup performance and/or growth (e.g. students with disabilities)● Title I served school● Poverty data of 35% or higher

Round 2: Schools identified in Round 1 completed the following process:

- School principals and leadership teams participated in a 30 minute, in-depth phone interview with IDOE staff that included identification of what programs and services led to the school's growth and achievement, monitoring of student progress, focus areas for professional development, implementation of professional development activities with fidelity, opportunities for collaboration, and family and community engagement.
- The school and district led a 1 hour onsite visit with an IDOE team that included observations of school culture, classroom environments, family and community partnerships, and positive student engagement.

Exceptional Student Performance and Academic Growth Winner:

William Henry Burkhart Elementary School in Perry Township Schools

- Principal: Darlene Hardesty, 317-789-3600
- Title I Program Administrator: Jane Pollard, 317-789-3777
- Superintendent: Mr. Patrick Mapes, 317-789-3721
- William Henry Burkhart Elementary School continues to demonstrate high levels of student achievement by being student focused and data informed. The school has maintained an 'A' or 'B' for the past two consecutive years with a school poverty level of 80%. Burkhart ensures their students are achieving growth targets by tracking and monitoring student data with a focus on skill mastery. Staff are supported through weekly opportunities for collaboration and professional development. The school works to create a culture of success with a diverse student population and engages families through a variety of culturally responsive practices. Burkhart demonstrates a commitment to empowering each student to grow academically, behaviorally, and socially.

Closing the Achievement Gap between Student Groups Winner:

Arlington Heights Elementary School in Monroe County Community School Corporation

- Principal: Micah Heath, 812-330-7747
- Title I Program Administrator: Bill Luther, 812-330-7700
- Superintendent: Dr. Judith DeMuth, 812-330-7700
- With a school poverty level of 58%, Arlington Heights Elementary School demonstrates high performance in student achievement while closing achievement gaps among student groups. Staff at Arlington Heights believe that all students can learn, that diversity is a strength, and that the individuality of students, families, and staff must be valued and respected. Resources are organized so that learning is the constant and time and instructional methods are the variables. Arlington Heights supports their students by meeting individual student needs through innovative practices in academics, behavior, and social emotional learning. The positive behavior of students is maintained through explicit instruction and daily reinforcement. The school culture is based on building and facilitating relationships; the school intentionally cultivates and maintains high levels of parent involvement as a means to impact student achievement.