

Distinguished School Announcement 2013-2014

In December 2014, the Indiana Department of Education announced two Title I Distinguished Schools: Virgil I. Bailey Elementary School in Lake Station Community Schools was honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Exceptional Student Performance for a Title I school; and, Maplewood Elementary School in MSD of Wayne was honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Closing the Achievement Gap. As a result of their efforts, both schools will receive a \$25,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Education, will be invited to present at the next Indiana Title I Conference, and will be invited to attend and be recognized at the National Title I Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in 2015.

Additionally, IDOE is honoring the following schools as runners-up and awarding them a \$5,000 achievement grant: Hawthorne Elementary School in MSD of Warren for Exceptional Student Performance and Homecroft Elementary School in Perry Township Schools for Closing the Achievement Gap.

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.

Selected schools must qualify for one of the following categories:

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

Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups

IDOE Staff reviewed Title I Schoolwide School performance data for the last three years. Letter grades, poverty level, and diversity of student populations were examined to narrow the original list. In round one, 32 schools received principal interviews. A rubric was established and filled out during interviews. In round two, nine schools received an onsite visit from IDOE staff where another rubric was completed. In round three, five schools received a team interview from IDOE where multiple staff from each school participated. In interviews and school visits, schools were given an opportunity to highlight programs and services which have led to the school's success, how the school monitors student progress, professional development focus and implementation, how the teachers and staff collaborate, and involvement of families and community partners.

These 32 nominated schools were:

Exceptional Student Performance Nominees:

- Fairview Elementary School in Logansport Community School Corporation
- Maplewood Elementary School in Greater Clark County Schools
- W E Wilson Elementary in Greater Clark County Schools
- East Washington Academy in Muncie Community Schools
- Monger Elementary School in Elkhart Community Schools
- Boulevard Elementary School in Kokomo School Corporation
- Judge Haynes Elementary School in Jay School Corporation
- Lincoln Elementary School in Warsaw Community Schools

- Carl J Polk Elementary School in Lake Station Community Schools
- Virgil I Bailey Elementary School in Lake Station Community Schools
- Sunnyside Elementary School in MSD Lawrence Township
- Hawthorne Elementary School in MSD Warren Township
- Ernie Pyle School 90 in Indianapolis Public Schools
- Carl Wilde School 79 in Indianapolis Public Schools
- Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet HS in Indianapolis Public Schools
- James A Allison Elementary School 3 in School Town of Speedway
- Frank H Wheeler Elementary School 4 in School Town of Speedway
- Mollie B Hoover Elementary School in Crawfordsville Community Schools
- Murdock Elementary School in Lafayette School Corporation
- Glen Acres Elementary School in Lafayette School Corporation
- Amelia Earhart Elementary School in Lafayette School Corporation
- Farrington Grove Elementary School in Vigo County School Corporation
- Blance E Fuqua Elementary School in Vigo County School Corporation
- Sugar Grove Elementary School in Vigo County School Corporation

Growth and Closing the Achievement Gap Nominees:

- Northaven Elementary School in Greater Clark County Schools
- Hawthorne Elementary School in Elkhart Community Schools
- Waterford Elementary Schools in Goshen Community Schools
- Homecroft Elementary School in Perry Township Schools
- Maplewood Elementary School in MSD of Wayne
- McClelland Elementary School in MSD of Wayne
- Evans School in Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation
- George Washington Elementary School in School City of East Chicago

Through data examination, principal interviews, narratives provided by schools, and site visits, Indiana Department of Education narrowed the field of 32 distinguished schools nominees to two honorees:

- Exceptional Student Performance Title I Distinguished School for 2013-2014
 - Virgil I. Bailey Elementary School in Lake Station Community Schools
 - Principal: Mr. Terry Kolopanis
 - Superintendent: Dr. Tom Cripliver
 - Virgil I. Bailey is a proven educational success story, showing thirteen years of student-centered success. Serving a low-socioeconomic population comprised of an increasingly changing student population, Bailey's success is attributed to ongoing teacher collaboration, instruction driven by data analysis, test talks with every student, and regular support staff meetings to adjust small group instruction. In 2002, Bailey refocused its plan for staff and students and ISTEP+ passing rates began to increase. They began looking at and studying research-based best practices for impoverished schools, and started implementing both formal and informal assessments. These assessments are ongoing and guide the teachers in planning and evaluating instruction. Bailey has multiple supports in place during the school day, as well as after school, for the diverse needs of their students. Parents, community members, and students shared with IDOE their love of Bailey. Multiple sixth grade students wrote essays about why Bailey

has helped them achieve, and one even participated in the IDOE group interview stating that Bailey " is a world treasure."

- Growth and Closing the Achievement Title I Distinguished School for 2013-2014
 - Maplewood Elementary School in MSD of Wayne Township
 - Principal: Mrs. Moira Clark
 - Superintendent: Dr. Jeffrey Butts
 - As a high poverty school, the mission at Maplewood Elementary is to create a structured, nurturing environment and build strong, positive relationships with students and families. This is entirely evident the moment you walk into the doors of Maplewood. The positive school wide behavior support program reinforces positive behaviors on the busses, in the hallways, and in the classrooms and rewards students for making good choices. This is paired with a social skills program to explicitly teach the skills students need to be productive. Student achievement is the core of the work at Maplewood. After analyzing the root causes for underachievement, the school determined three areas of focus: purposeful planning, maximizing data, and owning data. Teachers have received training in lesson planning that is explicit, rigorous, and responsive to the needs of the students. A clear focus on data is evident throughout the building. Every classroom and every hallway is tracking data of some sort. Students at all grade levels have data folders and can discuss what is in being tracked in the folders. Parents see data in newsletters, at monthly parent events, and in their students' data folders.