

SY 15-16 Title I Distinguished School Awards

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is pleased to announce two Title I Distinguished School awards. James A. Allison Elementary School in School Town of Speedway is honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Exceptional Student Performance for a Title I school from SY 2015-2016. Donald E Gavit Middle/High School in School City of Hammond is honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Closing the Achievement Gap from SY 2015-2016.

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 for two or more consecutive years

Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups

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

| <u>Exceptional Performance Category</u> | <u>Closing the Achievement Gap Category</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Achievement Data and School Letter Grade of an 'A' (2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016) ● Title I Schoolwide served school ● Poverty data of 75% or higher ● Diversity of student population ● Analysis of Title I funding expenditures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Achievement Data and School Letter Grade (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016) ● Exited School Improvement status ● Title I Schoolwide served school ● Poverty data of 75% or higher ● Diversity of student population ● Analysis of Title I funding expenditures |

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

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

Other nominees for Title I Distinguished Schools include the following schools:

| <i>Exceptional Student Performance Nominees</i> | <i>Growth and Closing the Achievement Gap Nominees</i> |
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| Hawthorne Elementary School , MSD Warren Township Judge Haynes Elementary School , Jay School Corp | Columbia Elementary School , School City of Hammond Morton Elementary School , School City of Hammond Christel House Academy South , Indianapolis Stonybrook Middle School , MSD Warren Township |

Exceptional Student Performance Winner:

James A. Allison Elementary School in School Town of Speedway

- Principal: Jay Bedwell, 317-244-9836
- Title I Program Administrator: Andrea McIntosh, 317-536-9088
- Superintendent: Kenneth E. Hull, 317-244-0236
- James A. Allison Elementary School continues to demonstrate high levels of student achievement by creating a culture of high expectations. The diverse school has maintained an 'A' for the past seven consecutive years with a school poverty level of 78%. Allison Elementary supports their students through several programs and processes that have remained consistent throughout the past several years. Students receive mental-health support from the full time school counselor and full time school nurse. The school supports teachers with their professional development opportunities provided to staff from their instructional coach and other district personnel. The principal ensures the professional development is implemented with fidelity in the classrooms. Paraprofessionals at the school meet at least once a month with the school's instructional coach to receive support and guidance with intervention programs and student information. Each month, all staff celebrate school achievements throughout the year to build relationships and establish a culture of community within the building.

Growth and Closing the Achievement Gap Winner:

Donald E. Gavit Middle/High School in School City of Hammond

- Principal: Michelle Ondas, 219-989-7328
- Title I Program Administrator: Catherine Danko, 219-933-2400
- Superintendent: Walter J. Watkins, 219-933-2400
- As a high poverty school of 77%, Donald E. Gavit Middle/High School has exited school improvement status and has shown high growth with their student achievement. Gavit is able to think creatively when it comes to motivating students and promoting student engagement. Even with Gavit's mobile student population, they utilize a growth mindset that all children can succeed. There is a strong collaboration between the middle school and high school teachers, which makes the transition seamless from 8th grade to 9th grade. Teachers also frequent each other's classrooms to learn different instructional strategies at least twice a semester, which has helped create a great team atmosphere within the building. The school has created a mentoring program between the high school students and middle school students, which has really helped to build powerful culture in the building. The consistent leadership in the building has helped move the school forward, including the establishment of AP courses offered to middle school and high school students. Every student is encouraged daily to dream big. The school also has established partnerships with families and community organizations.