

SY 2017-2018 Title I Distinguished School Awards

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is pleased to announce two Title I Distinguished School awards. Chrisney Elementary School in North Spencer County School Corporation is honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Exceptional Student Performance for a Title I school from SY 2017-2018. Walnut Elementary School in South Montgomery Community School Corporation is honored as a National Title I Distinguished School for Closing the Achievement Gap from SY 2017-2018.

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

Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, 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 (2016-2017, 2017-2018)● 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 (2016-2017, 2017-2018)● 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 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 1 hr. onsite visit with an IDOE team

Exceptional Student Performance Winner:

Chrisney Elementary School in North Spencer County School Corporation

- Principal: Mrs. Lori Hermann, 812-937-2400
- Title I Program Administrator: Mrs. Jennifer Jazyk, 812-937-2400
- Superintendent: Mr. Daniel Scherry, 812-937-2400
- Chrisney Elementary School continues to demonstrate high levels of student achievement by being student focused and data informed. The school has maintained an 'A' for the past two consecutive years with a school poverty level of 47%. Chrisney supports their students through several programs and processes that have remained consistent throughout the past several years. Staff exhibit a strong culture of shared responsibility so that all children of various backgrounds have the opportunity to succeed. The master schedule is structured to share students across grade levels so all staff can provide academic remediation and enrichment to students based on their individual literacy needs. Parents have access to math content through screen casted lessons. Students receive social and emotional support from the social worker and numerous community partnerships. The school supports teachers with dedicated time for collaboration and differentiated professional development opportunities, including book studies focused on meeting the needs of their student population. The school culture is based on demonstrating kindness, facilitating relationships, and sharing trust.

Growth and Closing the Achievement Gap Winner:

Walnut Elementary School in South Montgomery Community School Corporation

- Principal: Mr. Eric Brewer, 765-362-0542
- Title I Program Administrator: Mrs. Anna Roth, 765-866-0203
- Superintendent: Dr. Shawn Greiner, 765-866-0203
- With a school poverty level of 39%, Walnut Elementary School demonstrates high performance in student achievement while closing achievement gaps among student groups. Walnut has earned an 'A' every school year since 2011-2012 and shown substantial growth with their free and reduced lunch population. The school utilizes a Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports model to engage students and build a proactive school culture. Walnut supports their students via a whole child approach in which all students are known by name, strengths, and areas of improvement. Ongoing student supports are provided in fluid groupings that are structured to address individual student needs. Staff collaborate regularly during designated professional learning communities with an intentional student focus. The school creates and works to achieve aggressive student achievement goals that serve to engage and challenge their students. Walnut parents and community members are regularly involved in school events and activities that further support students. Student and family engagement is recognized as a valued contributing factor to the school's success.