



## The National Association of State Title I Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2008

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### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TITLE I DIRECTORS HONORS DISTINGUISHED TITLE I SCHOOLS

The National Association of State Title I Directors (NASTID) announces its annual Distinguished Title I School Recognition Program winners at its 2008 conference, "Changing Performance," January 31 – February 3, 2008 in Nashville, TN. These highlighted schools have demonstrated significant sustained academic improvement in spite of having a 35 percent or higher poverty rate. Their profiles are shared in an online publication on the NASTID website: "Changing Performance, 2008 National Title I Conference Distinguished Schools."

The 71 awarded schools (from year 2007) representing 36 states and the District of Columbia will get their certificates January 31, 2008, 7:30 to 9:00 AM in the Delta Ballroom of the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. These academically outstanding schools were selected in one of two categories: 1- Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years or, 2- Closing the achievement gap between student groups.

The selected schools are an example to other Title I schools of approaches, programs, and creative education techniques that work.

For instance, the area served by **Anna F. Booth Elementary School in Irvington, Alabama** was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Booth Elementary serves the children of Bayou la Batre, a small fishing community in southern Mobile County. Twenty-eight percent of the students are Vietnamese, Cambodian or Laotian; 27% are limited English proficient; and 90% qualify for free/reduced lunch. Hurricane Katrina devastated Bayou la Batre on August 29, 2005 leaving over 70% of the students homeless. Despite the devastation, teachers did not once express concern that the lingering impact would affect achievement. When the hurricane hit, the school was entering its third-year of Reading First (RF), and teachers were confident that the hurricane's aftermath would not destroy the foundation built through this grant. Staff members supported relief efforts to meet students' basic needs; and, at the end of that difficult year, student achievement continued to rise. In its fifth year of RF, students continue academic gains.

**Poston Junior High in Mesa, Arizona** attributes the success of its 1400 diverse students, in large part, to its faculty of dedicated and well-trained teachers who employ the essential elements of instruction, before- and after-school tutoring, and ongoing rigorous professional development.

Monthly “best practices” in-services are a key component in staff development. Teachers teach each other the skills and strategies they’ve found most effective in the classroom.

**Desert Winds Elementary in Tucson, Arizona** reduced discipline referrals by more than 58% allowing more focus on learning. Positive Behavior Supports, a research-based schoolwide discipline program, helped teachers gain essential teaching time. Teacher Support Teams help teachers to evaluate students’ needs and assist students in the classroom whether the need is academic, social, or emotional. The Desert Winds’ counselor and behavior coach remove barriers to learning and link intervention networks for children in the school.

**Handley Elementary School in LaPorte, Indiana** notes that the greatest contributing factor in Handley’s success is the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) program. HOSTS combines latest research on effective educational practices and technology into a proven language arts mentoring program. Students link with business and community volunteer mentors who strengthen students’ reading, writing, vocabulary development, study skills, and higher order thinking skills. Last year 80 mentors came each week.

At **Intermediate School 392 in Brooklyn, New York** arts, integrated with academic instruction, help provide background knowledge, rich vocabulary, and improved learning and scores. Students experience the arts throughout the day while focusing on standards-aligned instruction in each core academic area as they become well-rounded productive members of society.

Title I is the largest federal-aid program in K-12 education. The Title I program has served over 150 million children in need of extra academic support in reading, writing, and math since 1965. Many Title I students go on to be the first in their families to graduate high school and college. Some—whose backgrounds include migrant farm work, non-English speaking homes, and extreme poverty—have become teachers, military officers, computer experts, and engineers.

The Distinguished Schools demonstrate strengths in the following areas: opportunity to meet proficient/advanced levels of performance; strong professional development; coordination with other programs; curriculum and instruction to support achievement of high standards; and partnerships among schools, parents and communities. Each school submits the last three years of achievement data, has State representatives visit their school for evaluation, and creates a one-page school description. Contact these schools directly for additional information. (See attached list and access the book with contact information for each school on the NASTID website: [www.TitleI.org](http://www.TitleI.org).)

Contact A+events (800-256-6452 or [TitleI@aplusevents.com](mailto:TitleI@aplusevents.com)) for information on the January 2008 conference.

### **Title I Distinguished Schools 2007**

#### **Alabama**

Anna F. Booth Elementary School  
Fruithurst Elementary School

#### **Alaska**

Anderson Elementary School  
Mountain View Elementary School

#### **Arizona**

Poston Junior High  
Desert Winds

**California**

West Campus High School  
Monarch Academy

**Colorado**

Las Animas Elementary  
West Park Elementary

**Delaware**

East Millsboro Elementary School  
Long Neck Elementary School

**District of Columbia**

Tyler Elementary School  
KIPP DC: Key Academy

**Florida**

Oriole Beach Elementary School  
Wewahitchka Elementary School

**Georgia**

J.S. Pate Elementary School  
International Community School

**Indiana**

Handley Elementary School  
Lakeside Elementary School

**Kansas**

McCarter Elementary School  
Horace Mann Dual Language

**Kentucky**

Millard Middle School  
Second Street School

**Louisiana**

Abita Springs Elementary School  
Riser Elementary School

**Maryland**

Viers Mill Elementary School  
Green Holly Elementary School

**Massachusetts**

Boston Collegiate Charter School  
Sewell-Anderson Elementary School

**Minnesota**

Highland Elementary School  
Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary

**Montana**

Box Elder High School  
Heart Butte Elementary School

**Nebraska**

Carriage Hill Elementary

**Nevada**

Yerington Elementary School  
J.D. Smith Middle School

**New Jersey**

Edward J. Patten Elementary School  
Essex County Vo- Tech: Bloomfield Tech

**New York**

Intermediate School 392  
George Mather Forbes School No. 4

**North Carolina**

Morehead City Primary School  
Longview Elementary School

**North Dakota**

Madison Elementary

**Ohio**

Prospect Elementary School  
Toledo School For The Arts

**Oklahoma**

Cottonwood Elementary School  
Byng Elementary School

**Oregon**

Hosford Middle School  
Sacramento Elementary School

**Pennsylvania**

Julia R. Masterman School  
Wilson Middle School

**Rhode Island**

Tower Street School  
Globe Park School

**South Carolina**

W.M. Anderson Primary School  
Oakland Elementary

**South Dakota**

Stickney Elementary School

**Tennessee**

Unity School  
Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option

**Texas**

George West Primary  
Bowie Elementary School

**Utah**

Salina Elementary School  
Escalante Valley Elementary School

**Virginia**

Dreamkeepers Academy  
Metompkin Elementary School

**Washington**

Washington Elementary School  
Bryn Mawr Elementary School

**West Virginia**

Frametown Elementary School  
Beach Bottom School

**Wyoming**

Moorcroft Elementary School  
University Park Elementary School