

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG

MEMORANDUM NO. 2019-151

TO: School District Superintendents
Title I Directors
Principals

FROM: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: December 9, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019-20 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program



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2019-20 NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has announced Albin Elementary School in Laramie #2 and Evansville Elementary School in Natrona #1 as the 2019-20 National ESEA Distinguished School Award winners.

The National Association of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) State Program Administrators selects examples of superior federally-funded school programs for national recognition through the Distinguished Schools Program. Schools are selected by state educational agencies and must qualify under one of the following categories:

- Exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years.
- Closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years.
- Excellence in serving special populations of students (homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

During the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, Albin Elementary School showed exceptional student performance and academic achievement in mathematics and reading, and Evansville Elementary School significantly closed the achievement gap among student groups in mathematics and reading. Both schools showed a poverty rate of at least 35%, based on free and reduced price lunch counts.

These two schools represent superior Title I programs, offer focused and innovative professional development opportunities for staff, show strong community involvement, and achieve success with individualized student programs. Moreover, both schools met or exceeded expectations as established by the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

For more information, contact Leslie Koch at 307-777-6216 or les.koch1@wyo.gov.