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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-164

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Title I Directors  
Principals

**FROM:** Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

**DATE:** October 26, 2020

**SUBJECT:** 2020 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Application

# NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL AWARD PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has released the 2020 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished School Award Program Application.

The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators honors Title I schools from each state that have demonstrated a wide array of strengths, including team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individual programs for student success, and strong partnerships between the school, parents, and the community.

The WDE will select one qualifying school, if applicable, in each 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.).

In order to qualify under the above categories, the school must have:

- A poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year (may use state's average poverty rate to qualify a school if below 35%).
- Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years.
- Met or exceeded expectations as established by WAEA for at least two consecutive years.
- Clearly demonstrated that it has met the criteria for the category it is applying for.
- Not been recognized as a Distinguished School during the previous two years.

Schools can fill out the application form [here](#). The deadline to submit applications is November 13, 2020.

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*For more information, contact Leslie Koch, Title IA Director, at 307-777-6216 or [les.koch1@wyo.gov](mailto:les.koch1@wyo.gov).*