

“COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”

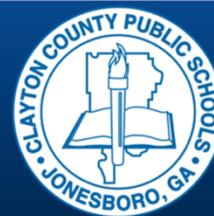
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Elite Scholars Academy Named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2021

ESA earns its second CCPS Blue Ribbon distinction; first named in 2014

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has the profound honor to announce that Elite Scholars Academy (ESA) has been recognized as an **Exemplary High Performing Schools** National Blue Ribbon School for 2021 by U. S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona! This is the second National Blue Ribbon distinction earned by ESA. The first came in 2014.

This is also the second consecutive year that a CCPS school has been designated a National Blue Ribbon School. Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts earned this distinction in 2020.

Elite Scholars Academy is one of nine schools in Georgia to earn the Blue Ribbon designation for 2021. A total of 325 elementary and secondary level public and private schools were named as part of the 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

The Education Department recognizes all Blue Ribbon schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students.

“We are so proud to share this outstanding news with our stakeholders,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “The awarding of this distinction is especially meaningful in light of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on teaching and learning since March 2020.”

“Clearly Elite Scholars Academy is a marvelous school and all those associated with it are outstanding examples of our commitment to high performance,” Dr. Beasley added. “I join with the Clayton County Board of Education and with all our students, our staff and our administrators in commending Elite Scholars Academy for earning this tremendous recognition.”

“We are honored, humbled, and grateful for this distinguished award.” said Dr. Shonda Shaw, ESA Principal. “I am so proud of the hard work of our staff, students and the ESA school community, and for the support of the Clayton County Public Schools district.”

Elite Scholars Academy will be formally recognized during the 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony scheduled for Thursday and Friday, November 4-5, 2021 in Washington D.C. During this celebration, ESA will join with the other honorees in receiving their National Blue Ribbon Schools plaques and flags.

About the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Now in its 39th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools. Up to 420 schools, both public and private in all grade levels, may be nominated each year with nominations accepted from top education officials in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education.

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth-largest school system in Georgia.

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