

# National Title I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

## BACKGROUND

A project of the National Title I Association, each year the Distinguished Schools Program publicly recognizes qualifying Title I schools from each state for their outstanding achievements in education. Because only two schools per state are selected each year as National Title I Distinguished Schools, this award is an especially prestigious honor.

NOTE: The specific section of the law (NCLB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(ii)) is provided for your reference, but the Qualifying Criteria listed below govern the Distinguished School recognition program of the National Title I Association.

## QUALIFYING CRITERIA

**In order for a school to qualify for the Distinguished School award, it must have:**

- 1) A poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year
- 2) Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years
- 3) Met or exceeded state-determined criteria based on two or more consecutive years of achievement data for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)—or alternative accountability criteria for those states with ESEA Flexibility Requests approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED)—for at least two consecutive years

**Each state may select one qualifying school in each of the following categories:**

**Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two consecutive years** ~~A school that has exceeded AYP—or alternative accountability criteria for those states with ED-approved ESEA Flexibility Requests—for two or more years~~  
*NCLB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(ii)*

**Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups**  
~~A school that has significantly closed the achievement gap between subgroups of students~~  
*NCLB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(ii)*