

2025 National ESEA Distinguished Schools Recognition

The Background:

The National Association of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) State Program Administrators (NAESPA) has been selecting examples of superior Title I schools from all states for national recognition since 1996. Each year, Tennessee selects two schools for recognition – one for exceptional student performance and one for excellence in serving special populations of students.

The schools recognized demonstrate a wide array of strengths, including team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individualized programs for student success, and strong partnerships between the school, parents, and the community.

This year's schools were recognized at the National ESEA Conference February 10-12, 2026, in Denver, CO. The two Tennessee schools that have been recognized as National ESEA Distinguished Schools for 2025 are:

Medical District High School

Shelby County Schools

Director of Schools Dr. Roderick Richmond
Principal Wakima Tutwiler
SWTCC Building E 737 Union Ave
Memphis, TN 38103

Porter Elementary School

Blount County Schools

Director of Schools Justin Ridge
Principal Stacey Hoxworth
4520 Wildwood Springs Rd
Maryville, TN 37804

The Recommendation:

For information purposes only; no action required.