



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

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**OUTSTANDING ALABAMA SCHOOLS RECEIVING  
NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS AWARD**

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Two Alabama schools will be officially recognized at the upcoming National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Conference in Austin, Texas, on February 19-21, 2025 - <https://www.eseanetwork.org/conference>

Each has now been named a National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) Distinguished Schools award winner:

- Hamilton Elementary School, Marion County School System,
  - Superintendent: Dr. Patrick Sutton, Principal: Mr. Gary McCarley
- Brookwood Elementary School, Enterprise City School System,
  - Superintendent: Dr. Zel Thomas, Principal: Dr. Nathaniel Martin

**Hamilton Elementary School** was selected for *Category 1: Exceptional Student Performance for Two or More Consecutive Years*.

Hamilton Elementary School has shown exceptional student performance during the last two years, with an average achievement rate of 68.63 percent.

- The criteria to be selected for Category 1:
  - Served as a Title I-A school
  - Poverty rate of 60% or greater
  - Demonstrates high achievement for two or more consecutive years defined by achievement rate of 65% or greater (combined reading & math)

**Brookwood Elementary School** was selected for *Category 3: Excellence in Serving English Learners*.

Brookwood Elementary School has shown excellence in serving this special population with a 97.06% growth rate among English Learners for the 2023-2024 school year.

- The criteria to be selected for Category 3:
  - Served as a Title I-A school
  - Growth of 70% or higher in English Learners (combined reading & math)

Some of the key criteria to be selected for Category 1 status this year included:

- The selected school must have been serving as a Title I-A school.
- The selected school must have demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years as defined by an achievement rate of 65 percent or greater

The primary criteria to be selected for Category 3 status this year included:

- The selected school must have served as a Title I-A school.
- The selected school must have a growth rate of 70% or higher in English Learners (combined reading and math).

To learn more about this nationally recognized initiative, contact ALSDE Federal Program Specialist Jennifer Connell at 334-694-4519 or [jennifer.connell@ALSDE.edu](mailto:jennifer.connell@ALSDE.edu)

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