



For Immediate Release:

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Four schools receive national distinction for closing achievement gaps or high performance

(HARTFORD, CT)—The U.S. Department of Education (USED) today named four Connecticut schools in Norwalk, Woodbridge, Portland and Litchfield as 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor released the following statements celebrating the teachers, students and communities for receiving this prestigious distinction.

“The opportunity of a quality education sets our students on a path to bright future, regardless of zip code or family wealth. Today’s honorees serve as great examples of school communities delivering on the promise of a great education for our kids,” Gov. Malloy said. “In 2012, we set out to break away from the status quo, determined to close achievement gaps, improve outcomes for all students, and deliver critical support to the schools and students that needed it most. While there is no doubt much more work to be done, the progress made by Connecticut’s 2014 Blue Ribbon School teachers, parents and students in achieving this end should be celebrated.”

“The schools named today are exemplars of success and deserve great recognition for their accomplishments,” Commissioner Pryor said. “Congratulations to the teachers, principals, and superintendents who worked with parents and students to achieve this well-deserved distinction. We are also grateful for the unwavering support for all our schools from Governor Malloy and the General Assembly.”

Norwalk’s [Jefferson Magnet School](#) was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School for its track record of gap closure and for high student graduation and performance across subgroups. Woodbridge’s [Amity Regional High School](#), Portland’s [Portland Middle School](#), and Litchfield’s [Wamogo Regional High School](#) received honors in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category for high student achievement and graduation rates.

The USED’s Blue Ribbon School Program is an annual award bestowed on schools across the nation for high academic performance or greatest progress in achievement gap closure among subgroups. For more information about the program, please visit the [USED website](#).

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