

Mike Hanley
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
www.eed.state.ak.us

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

Eric Fry
Information Officer

907.465.2851
cell: 907.321.5564
eric.fry@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 27, 2013

Aurora Elementary is a National Blue Ribbon School

JUNEAU – The U.S. Department of Education has named Aurora Elementary School in the Anchorage School District one of 286 schools nationwide as 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools, based on their overall academic excellence or progress in improving student achievement. Aurora Elementary was awarded for academic excellence.

The U.S. Department of Education will honor 236 public and 50 private schools Nov. 18-19 in Washington, D.C.

“Alaska’s National Blue Ribbon Schools remind all of us of the great work that educators, parents and students do every day to achieve excellence,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. “They are inspiring.”

Aurora Elementary serves approximately 390 students K-6 at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson. Alaska classifies it as a five-star school, the highest ranking, under the new Alaska School Performance Index.

In the state-assessed grades of 3 to 6, 92 percent of Aurora’s students score proficient or above on reading, writing, and math. The school has an attendance rate approaching 96 percent. Approximately half of Aurora’s students are from economically disadvantaged families. As a school on a military base, it has a student transiency rate of about 34 percent.

Each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education nominates schools based on federal criteria. The Council for American Private Education nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. Nominated schools may submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

School contact: Aurora Elementary Principal Debbie Washington, 907-742-0300.

###

**EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT**



EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT