

Mike Hanley
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
education.alaska.gov

SEAL OF THE STATE
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

January 21, 2016

Alaska Nominates Three Schools for Federal Award

JUNEAU -- The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has nominated three schools for the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Award for 2016.

The nominees are: Orion Elementary School, a preK-6 school in the Anchorage School District; Bayshore Elementary School, a preK-6 school in the Anchorage School District; and Academy Charter School, a K-8 school in the Mat-Su Borough School District.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors schools that are high-performing or schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged students who show significant improvement on statewide assessments. School performance is demonstrated by student scores on state assessments in English language arts and math. All three Alaska schools have been nominated as high-performing schools.

"We are very pleased to nominate these wonderful schools," said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. "The nominees exemplify a commitment to educating all students."

Nominated schools prepare an extensive application, including a narrative of their vision, community and strengths; descriptions of curriculum, instruction, professional development, and leadership; and student assessment data.

Nominated high-performing schools must be in the top 15th percentile among all students and in the top 40th percentile in disadvantaged subgroups in meeting standards on the Alaska Measures of Progress assessment as compared to similar schools assessing the same grade levels. The disadvantaged subgroups are Alaska Native/American Indian, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency. In nominating schools, the state also looks at participation rates in assessments, attendance rates, and graduation rates where applicable.

**EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

The U.S. Department of Education will announce the awardees in September 2016. For more information about Blue Ribbon Schools, see <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

School contacts:

Orion Elementary School, Principal Heather Mildon, 907-742-0250

Bayshore Elementary School, Principal Heidi Packer, 907-742-5360

Academy Charter School, Principal Barbara Gerard, 907-746-2358

###

