



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2017

Northern Lights ABC K-8 School Named Blue Ribbon School

JUNEAU -- The U.S. Department of Education has recognized Northern Lights ABC K-8 School in Anchorage as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. The school, which was nominated by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED), previously received this prestigious recognition in 2004.

“Northern Lights’ excellent staff, strong parental involvement, and multiple community partnerships add up to an exemplary public school,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. “I am pleased Northern Lights has again been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. School performance is demonstrated by student scores on statewide assessments in English language arts and math. In nominating schools, DEED also looks at participation rates in assessments, attendance rates, and graduation rates where applicable.

Northern Lights is being recognized as a high-performing school. A high-performing school must be in the top 15th percentile among all students and in the top 40th percentile in disadvantaged subgroups as measured by state assessments, and as compared to similar schools assessing the same grade levels.

Northern Lights ranked first among similar schools in the achievement of Alaska Native/American Indian students, economically disadvantaged students, and English learners. The school ranked second among similar schools in the achievement of students with disabilities. Its attendance rate is nearly 96 percent.

For more information about Blue Ribbon Schools visit <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>.

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