



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Nominates Northern Lights ABC K-8 School in Anchorage for Blue Ribbon Award

JUNEAU -- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has nominated Northern Lights ABC K-8 School in the Anchorage School District for the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award for 2017. Northern Lights was previously recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2004.

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

"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 honored to nominate Northern Lights for a National Blue Ribbon Award."

A nominated school prepares an extensive application, including a narrative of its vision, community and strengths; descriptions of curriculum, instruction, professional development, and leadership; and student assessment data.

A nominated high-performing school must be in the top 15th percentile among all students and in the top 40th percentile in disadvantaged subgroups in meeting standards on the most recent statewide 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.

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.

The U.S. Department of Education will announce the awardees in September 2017. For more information about National Blue Ribbon Schools, see <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

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