



Maryland State Department of Education Blue Ribbon School Program

Revised: January 2018

<p>What is the Blue Ribbon Schools Program?</p>	<p>The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a national and state program that recognizes and honors elementary, middle, and high schools that exhibit student achievement and/ or significant improvement in student achievement. Reducing the achievement gap for disadvantaged students may also be criterion. * Six Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools are identified each year by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). These schools become Maryland honorees and win numerous gifts and prizes. They are recommended to the US Department of Education for National Blue Ribbon School Awards and if selected are honored in Washington DC by the US Secretary of Education.</p> <p><i>Schools cannot apply for the National Blue Ribbon School Program until they have been selected by MSDE based on the categories below.</i></p>
<p>What are the selection criteria?</p>	<p><u><i>Exemplary High Performing Schools</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The performance for all students in reading and math must be in the Top 15 percentile of all schools in the state based on state assessments. 2. The performance of disadvantaged students in both reading and math in each of their subgroups must be in the top 40 percentile of all schools in the state based on state assessments. 3. The graduation rate of nominated high schools must be within the top 15 percentile of all high schools in the state. <p><u><i>In Addition</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Reading and math scores are calculated on subgroups with 10 or more students. B. The school must have been in existence for at least five full years and must have a student population of at least 200 students. C. The nominated school should not have received the Maryland or National Blue Ribbon Schools awards in at least the past five years. <p>*Two of the six schools submitted for National Blue Ribbon Awards must represent disadvantaged students.</p>

For more information, call 410.767.0370 (Baltimore area) or 1.888.246.0016 (toll free) or visit our website at MarylandPublicSchools.org

Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

What is the application process?	Each year MSDE selects six Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools based on the criteria listed in this document. These schools are designated as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools. They then receive an invitation from the U.S. Secretary of Education to apply for the National Blue Ribbon School Award. At that time, each school completes a National Blue Ribbon School Application.
What do Blue Ribbon Schools receive?	<p>A Blue Ribbon School is recognized as a high achieving school in Maryland and in the nation. This recognition brings significant prestige to the school, the community and the state. Winning schools also receive numerous prizes and honors.</p> <p>Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools are commended by the Maryland State Department of Education and the General Assembly at a dinner in Annapolis followed by a General Assembly tribute. Winners receive a Governor’s Proclamation, State Department of Education citation, and Maryland Blue Ribbon Flag of Excellence. Each school is visited by the State Superintendent of Schools and other dignitaries. Monetary prizes are typically awarded to each school by MSDE and its corporate sponsors.</p> <p>Substantial gifts and prizes are also donated to each Maryland Blue Ribbon school. For example, Smart Technologies donates technology equipment to each Maryland Blue Ribbon School.</p> <p>National Blue Ribbon School winners attend a two-day conference in Washington, D.C. hosted by the U.S. Secretary of Education. They receive the National Blue Ribbon flag and an inscribed plaque.</p>
How many schools can be selected?	Up to six Maryland schools can be identified each year as Blue Ribbon Schools by the Maryland State Department of Education. At least two of these schools must represent significant numbers of disadvantaged students.

The Maryland State Department of Education administers this program with support from the following corporations:

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