



PRESS RELEASE

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ARROW LIBERATION ACADEMY IS RECOGNIZED FOR THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

Houston - U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized Arrow Liberation Academy as one of the National Blue Ribbon Schools (<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>) for 2018. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance of progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

"I am pleased to celebrate with you as your school is named a National Blue Ribbon School," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. "We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives. Congratulations on your students' accomplishments and for your extraordinary commitment to meeting their unique needs."

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

All schools are honored in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- **Exemplary High Performing Schools** are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- **Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools** are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student group and all students over the past five years.

Arrow Liberation Academy was 1 of 23 public schools nominated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that has been awarded Blue Ribbon honors of 2018. Arrow Liberation Academy is 1 of 4 schools in the Houston Metro and Fort Bend County areas to receive the nation's highest distinction for school excellence.

Founded in 1982, Blue Ribbon Schools is a U.S. Department of Education program that recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where exemplary progress has been made toward closing achievement gaps among subpopulations while maintaining high achievement levels among all students.

"The work taking place at Blue Ribbon schools is a reflection of the commitment of our teachers to every student in their classroom and on their campus," said Commissioner of Education Mike Morath. "I congratulate this year's Blue Ribbon honorees."

The schools completed a rigorous application process through the U.S. Department of Education. Schools that receive the award will be recognized by the Secretary of Education and the U.S. Department of Education at an awards ceremony in Washington, D. C. in November.