

**Virginia Department of Education  
Office of Program Administration and Accountability**

**2014-2015 National Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program  
Instructions for Developing the Application**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the 2014-2015 National Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program, a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors (NASTID), is to recognize qualifying Title I schools from each state for their outstanding achievements in education. Only two schools per state are selected each year as Distinguished Schools. Each state may select one qualifying school in each of the following categories:

- Category 1: A school that has exceeded AMOs for the current and previous years (accountability years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015); or
- Category 2: A school that has significantly closed the achievement gap for student subgroups as evident by performance toward AMOs in the current and previous years (accountability years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015).

**Selection Criteria:**

Please use one-inch margins, a 12-point Times New Roman style font, and double space for all pages. The following areas must be addressed in the application:

- One-page narrative description of the school (this narrative must include verification that the school has a 35 percent or higher poverty rate and that it has not been a previous recipient of this recognition);
- Two-page description of the school's assessment results in reading (English/language arts) and mathematics (met or exceeded AMOs for two or more of the most current consecutive years) and how the school uses assessment data to improve student/school performance;
- One-page description of the reading (English/language arts) curriculum;
- One-page description of the mathematics curriculum;
- One-page description of how opportunities for all children to achieve are provided;
- One-page description of coordination with other programs;
- One-page description of professional development offerings;
- One-page description of partnerships with parents, families, and communities; and
- One-page description of the greatest contributing factor to the school's success.

**Review Criteria:**

The application will be evaluated on the following categories:

- A. One-page narrative description of the school (this narrative must include verification that the school has a 35 percent or higher poverty rate and that it has not been a previous recipient of this recognition);
- B. Teaching and learning based on the approved state curriculum for reading;
- C. Use of research-based instructional strategies for mathematics;
- D. Opportunities provided for each student to achieve;
- E. Coordination of Title I program with other programs;
- F. Description of sustained research-based professional development offerings;
- G. Established partnership with parents, families, and communities;
- H. Description of the greatest contributing factor to the school's success;
- I. Quantitative data supporting either Category 1 or Category 2; and
- J. Achieved a mean score at the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile for both reading/language arts and mathematics (verified by the VDOE).

**School Participation Form:**

See Attachment C. This form must accompany the application.

**Page Requirements:**

The application must be no more than **10 pages**, with one-inch margins, Times New Roman style, a 12-point font size, and be double-spaced. Please specify a heading at the top of each page. On the e-mail subject line, please indicate the school division's name and the category. (Example: Richmond City, Category 1)

**Application Due Date:**

The 2014-2015 National Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program Application must be submitted electronically to [NationalTitleIDistinguishedSchools@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:NationalTitleIDistinguishedSchools@doe.virginia.gov) by **3 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2014.**

NOTE: No faxed application will be accepted.

**Questions:**

Please direct your questions to Gabie Frazier at (804) 225-2907 or [Gabie.Frazier@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Gabie.Frazier@doe.virginia.gov)