



MEDIA RELEASE

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Four Tennessee Title I Schools Honored for Academic Achievement

NASHVILLE – Four Tennessee Schools have been named 2008-09 Title I Distinguished Schools either for exceptional student performance overall, or for significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups. Title I is a distinction given to schools that serve a large percentage of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. All award schools provide all students the opportunity to achieve at high levels, strong professional development, coordination with other programs, and partnerships with parents and the community.

“These schools debunk the myth that one’s ability to achieve is predetermined by socio-economic status,” Education Commissioner Timothy Webb said. “The distinction however is undoubtedly hard-won and well-deserved. Congratulations to Tennessee’s leading Title I schools.”

National Winners	State Winners
Centerview Elementary Exceptional Student Performance Cocke County Schools Principal Pam Messer	Gleason School Exceptional Student Performance Weakley County Schools Principal Randy Frazier
Burchfield Elementary Closing the Achievement Gap Scott County Schools Principal Randy Shelton	Circles of Success Learning Academy Exceptional Student Performance Memphis City Schools Principal Sheri Catron

“These schools set high expectations for students and give them the tools to reach those goals,” said Dr. Julie McCargar, Executive Director of Federal Programs. “With this accomplishment, these schools join an elite network that serves as a model for the nation. The purpose is to share what works so more students can benefit each year.”

The national winners will be recognized today at the 2009 Title I Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

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