

Rome City Schools Announces Ga DOE Title 1 Distinguished Schools Report for the State

Rome City Schools announced today that the system has two schools (East Central and West End) that have earned the designation of Title I Distinguished Schools list.

Distinguished Schools are among the top five percent of all Title I schools in Georgia, when ranked according to their most recent CCRPI score. In the state of Georgia, only 84 schools have earned this distinction. Two other schools (Trion Elementary with Trion City Schools and White Elementary with Bartow County Schools) were the only organizations to receive this distinct recognition out of all public schools in Northwest Georgia.

Buffi Murphy, who served as West End's principal from 2006 until this past spring, is thrilled about this announcement. "The passion for teaching and developing students to be successful in our country is what sets West End apart. The vision of West End is no excuses, and every obstacle or challenge was another opportunity to achieve greatness," she said. Murphy currently serves as the Professional Learning Specialist for Rome City Schools.

Kristin Teems, principal of East Central, is also very excited for her school. She said that the hard work of many resulted in this achievement.

"The teachers, staff and students of East Central are so very excited to be named to the Distinguished Schools list. What an honor," smiled Teems. "Receiving this award represents East Central's dedication to teaching at the highest level of rigor while supporting our students through meaningful relationships. As East Central's principal, I witness the commitment of our staff in eliminating obstacles and creating opportunities for every child who steps through our door every day. We are truly a school who follows its heart. This award is shared by all of East Central's students, parents, staff, teachers and administration."

"This is wonderful news for the students, teachers and staffs of both West End and East Central," said Superintendent Louis Byars. "It is also indicative of how hard all of our schools are working to become the best in the state."

Rome City Schools also announced that they do not have any schools on the CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) list or the TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) list. These are the lists that the Georgia Department of Education releases to identify schools needing assistance based on their CCRPI scores.

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December 4, 2018 – State School Superintendent Richard Woods today released the 2018 list of Title I Distinguished Schools – the highest-performing Title I schools in the state.

"In addition to identifying schools in need of additional support, it's important for us to recognize and applaud schools when they're doing well," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "These public schools are among the very best in the state and are doing extraordinary work on behalf of their students and communities. I extend my thanks and congratulations to every teacher, administrator, staff member, student, parent, and community partner who contributed to their success."

Schools identified for CSI or TSI support are not eligible.

All Distinguished Schools will be eligible to apply for the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program award, sponsored by the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators, in 2019. Each state selects two schools for this award; those two schools are recognized nationally and receive award funds from Title I A to support participation in the national conference.

Moving forward, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will calculate the list of Distinguished Schools annually. Beginning in fall 2019, GaDOE will also calculate a list of Reward

Schools – schools with the highest rate of improvement when the current year’s CCRPI score is compared to the previous year.