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# Governor Christie Applauds New Jersey Schools Earning U.S. Department of Education's 'Blue Ribbon Schools' Designation

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Trenton, NJ - Recognizing quality educational programming and high student achievement, Governor Chris Christie today commended the fifteen New Jersey public and private schools that earned the U.S. Department of Education's designation of a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School. Nine New Jersey public schools and six private schools from throughout the Garden State were named Blue Ribbon schools.

"New Jersey is known for having one of the strongest public education systems in the nation as well as some of the finest private schools, and all those recognized today exemplify the high standards we have in the Garden State," said Governor Christie. "The National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the kind of success that teachers, administrators and students can achieve when working together with a shared vision of ensuring that each child is on the path to success throughout their education and in the future."

Governor Christie has set a historic high for State spending for education at \$12.8 billion for the fifth year in a row. More than a quarter of the fiscal year 2016 state budget is for direct aid to New Jersey schools, which are ranked among the highest in the nation in per-pupil spending.

"I want to personally congratulate the New Jersey public schools that received a National Blue Ribbon School Award this year," said State Education Commissioner David C. Hespe. "This award brings honor and distinction to the schools, which have demonstrated a strong commitment to educational excellence. I commend the students, parents, teachers, school administrators - and everyone else in these school communities - for their hard work and dedication to ensure that their students are on track for success in college and career."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. In its 33-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this sought-after award on more than 8,000 schools throughout the United States.

The nine New Jersey public schools that earned the 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools designation include:

- Bergen County Academies, Bergen County Technical Schools, Bergen County Elizabeth Haddon Elementary School, Haddonfield Public Schools, Camden County Bloomfield Tech, Essex County Vocational Technical School District, Essex County Newark Tech, Essex County Vocational Technical School District, Essex County Voorhees High School, North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional, Hunterdon County H.W. Mountz Elementary School, Spring Lake School District, Monmouth County Southern Boulevard School, School District of the Chathams, Morris County Liberty Corner School, Bernards Township School District, Somerset County Elizabeth High School, Elizabeth Public Schools, Union County

The six private schools earning the designation include:

Ramsey, Academy of Saint Paul, Ramsey, Bergen County  
Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Moorestown, Burlington County  
Trinity Academy, Caldwell, Essex County  
Our Lady of Czestochowa School, Jersey City, Hudson County  
Holy Cross Elementary School, Rumson, Monmouth County  
Oratory Preparatory School, Summit, Union County

National Blue Ribbon Schools are honored at an annual awards ceremony in Washington D.C., where each receives a plaque and flag to signify its exemplary status. These schools serve as models for other schools throughout the nation. Details of their achievements are provided on the U.S. Department of Education's [website](#).

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