

2025 NC Distinguished Schools

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NATIONAL ESEA
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

Honoring Exceptional Federally-Funded Schools



Led by NAESPA

National Association of SEA
State Program Administrators



Academic Achievement

Honors Outstanding
Student Performance



Educational Progress

Recognizes Positive
School Advances

Established in 1996, the program showcases hundreds of schools **identified by the State Education Agency** for their **success in one of three categories**:



**Category
1**

Schools Exhibiting
**Exceptional Student
Performance and
Academic Growth**



**Category
2**

Schools that Have
**Closed the
Achievement Gap
Between Student
Groups**



**Category
3**

Schools that Show
**Excellence in
Serving Populations
of Students**



NATIONAL ESEA
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

**North Carolina
Recognized Schools
in Categories 2 and 3**

Category 2

**Schools that
Have Closed the
Achievement Gap
Between Student Groups**



Finalists

Schools That Have Closed the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

Cardinal Charter Academy | Charter

Central Carolina Academy | Charter

Clear View Elementary | Onslow County Schools

Dillard Middle | Wayne County Public Schools

Forest Hills Global Elementary | New Hanover County Schools

Frederick Douglass Elementary | Wilson County Schools

Gray's Creek Elementary | Cumberland County Schools

Seventy-First Classical Middle | Cumberland County Schools

University Meadows Elementary | Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

Winterville Charter Academy | Charter



**Christin
Etchison**
Principal



**Seventy-First
Classical Middle**

Category 2

Cumberland County Schools

Category 3

**Schools that Show
Excellence in Serving
Special Populations
of Students**

Students with Disabilities



Finalists

Schools That Show Excellence in Serving Special Populations

Armstrong Elementary | **Cumberland County Schools**

Endeavor Charter School | **Charter**

Envision Science Academy | **Charter**

Henderson Collegiate | **Charter**

Jonathan Valley Elementary | **Haywood County Schools**

Oxford Preparatory | **Charter**

Paw Creek Elementary | **Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools**

Swansboro Elementary | **Onslow County Schools**

West Buncombe Elementary | **Buncombe County Schools**

Westwood Elementary | **Ashe County Schools**



**Brad
Johnson**
Principal



**West Buncombe
Elementary**

Category 3

Buncombe County Schools

Recognized at the National ESEA Conference

