

NEWS RELEASE

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Southside Elementary Named Title I Distinguished School *Livingston Parish School to be honored in Seattle, Wash., this month*

LIVINGSTON, La. -- The Louisiana Department of Education recently announced that Southside Elementary School has been honored by the National Title I Directors Association and Distinguished Schools Program for exceptional student performance.

The school earned the honor by achieving its Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading and math for the last two years and for closing the achievement gap between white and minority students, as well as between economically disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students.

Southside Elementary School is one of only two schools in Louisiana selected for the honor, which will be presented this month at a national No Child Left Behind presentation in Seattle, Washington. The other Louisiana school honored for distinction is Mermentau Elementary School in Acadia Parish.

“The students, parents, teachers and administrators at Southside Elementary should be commended for their work in raising student achievement,” said Superintendent Bill Spear.

“We are very proud of the progress at that school and the continued push for excellence that is supported throughout our district,” he said.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education President Penny Dastugue said the honored schools serve as “powerful models for other Title I school.”

“The accomplishments of these schools and student merit recognition, and we want to congratulate them on their academic success,” Dastugue said

To qualify for the honor, schools must be identified as Title I schools, meaning that 40 percent or more of the school’s student population qualifies to receive free or reduced-price meals. More than 75 percent of Louisiana’s 1,400 public schools are identified as Title 1 schools.