



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Julie Johnson Thompson
(501) 683-4786
julie.thompson@arkansas.gov**

LITTLE ROCK: Four Arkansas public schools are on the list of 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools that was announced today by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Nationally, 304 schools – 254 public and 50 private – received the designation. All will be recognized in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 15 and 16.

The Arkansas schools are:

Arnold Drive Elementary School

4150 Arnold Drive
Jacksonville, AR 72076-1101
Phone: (501) 988-4145
Principal: Ms. Julie Davenport

Calico Rock Elementary School

P.O. Box 220
Calico Rock, AR 72519-0220
Phone: (870) 297-8533
Principal: Mrs. Debbie Moore

Kingston Elementary School

P.O. Box 149
Kingston, AR 72742-0149
Phone: (479) 665-2835
Principal: Mrs. Marsha Shaver

Salem Elementary School

313 Highway 62E Suite 4
Salem, AR 72576-9852
Phone: (870) 895-2456
Principal: Mr. Corey Johnson

“This is a wonderful recognition which honors the high level of commitment the administrators and teachers at these four schools have made to help students achieve academic success,” said Arkansas Commissioner of Education Tom W. Kimbrell.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement especially among disadvantaged

and minority students. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools based on one of two criteria:

- 1) Schools whose students, regardless of backgrounds, are high performing. These are schools ranked among the state's highest performing schools as measured by their performance on state assessments or in the case of private schools, that score at the highest performance level on tests referenced by national norms in at least the most recent year tested; and
- 2) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that improve student performance to high levels as measured by the school's performance on state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.