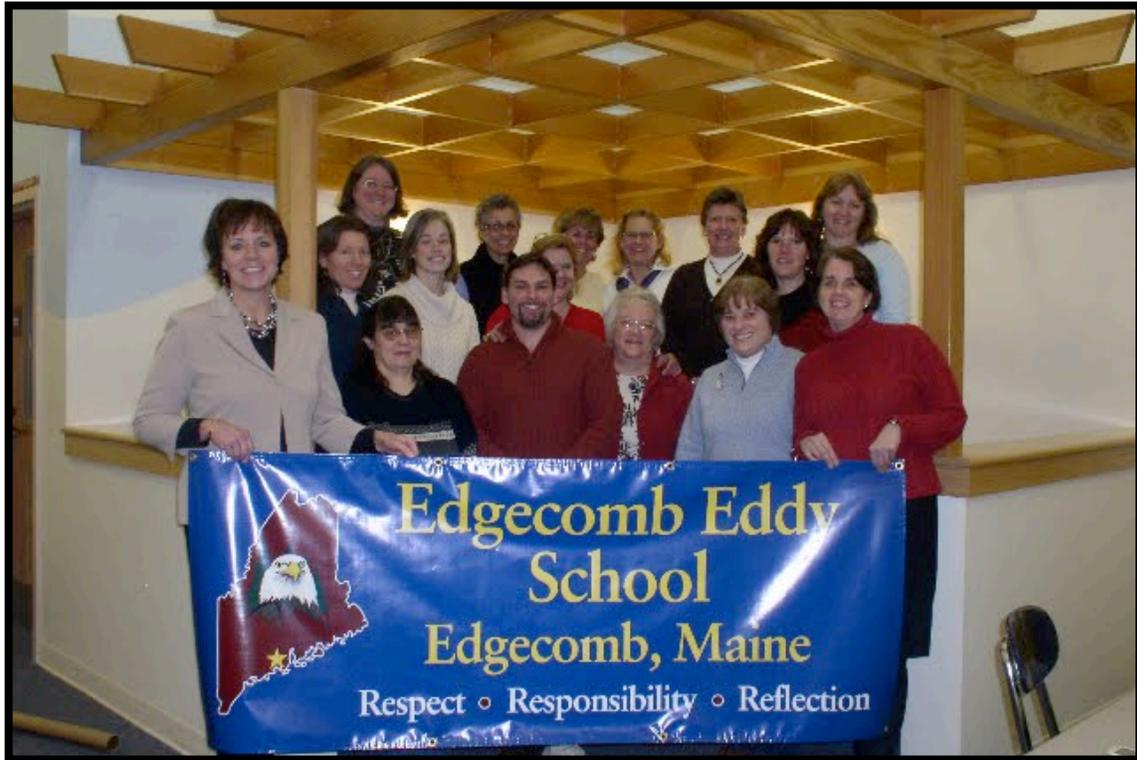


EDGECOMB EDDY SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD



Edgecomb Eddy School staff members celebrate the honor bestowed upon them as Maine's 2009 National Title I Distinguished School. Ms. Clarke (front left) and Mrs. Gosselin (front right) represented their school at the 2010 National Title I Conference in Washington D.C. from January 21-24.

Since 1996, the National Title I Distinguished School Program has honored schools across the country for their innovation in helping Title I populations achieve high educational standards. The Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Title I Association and provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be publicly recognized for their educational achievements. Distinguished Schools are selected from each state in one of two categories:

- Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.
- Closing the achievement gap between student groups.

Edgecomb Eddy School was selected as Maine's Distinguished Performance School for 2009 based on Maine Educational Assessment data over the past three years. Last year, over 95% of Edgecomb Eddy's third through sixth graders demonstrated proficiency in reading and math. The school's three-year average is over 80%. Schools selected for this national recognition must have a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year, must have demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years, and must have met or exceeded state standards for making "adequate yearly progress"(AYP) for two or more consecutive years.

As Maine's Distinguished School 2009, Ms. Clarke and Mrs. Gosselin represented Edgecomb Eddy School, funded by a grant through the Title I foundation, where they participated in a parade of Distinguished Schools from 49 other states. They were also honored at a special luncheon where each Distinguished School was recognized. The four-day conference featured keynote speaker Ron Clark, a former National Teacher of the Year, an author of educational books, and a man whose story has been made into a movie entitled, "The Ron Clark Story." Also speaking at this national conference was the United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Duncan, confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2009.

In his confirmation hearings, Duncan called education "the most pressing issue facing America," adding that "preparing young people for success in life is not just a moral obligation of society" but also an "economic imperative." "Education is also the civil rights issue of our generation," he said, "the only sure path out of poverty and the only way to achieve a more equal and just society." Duncan expressed his commitment to work under the leadership of President Obama and with all those involved in education "to enhance education in America, to lift our children and families out of poverty, to help our students learn to contribute to the civility of our great American democracy, and to strengthen our economy by producing a workforce that can make us as competitive as possible." (retrieved from <http://www.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/duncan.html>.)

Prior to his appointment as secretary of education, Duncan served as the chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools, a position to which

he was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley, from June 2001 through December 2008, becoming the longest-serving big-city education superintendent in the country.

Background

The National Title I Distinguished Schools Program, is a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors, and provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be publicly recognized for their positive educational achievements.

Criteria

Selected schools must have a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year and:

- demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years
- met or exceeded state standards for making adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years

Selection Process

Each participating state may establish and implement its own process for determining exemplary school effectiveness in the following areas. Schools selected by each state will be honored at the 2010 National Title I Conference, January 21-24 in Washington, DC.

1. teaching and learning based on the approved state curriculum
2. use of research-based instructional strategies
3. opportunities provided for all students to achieve
4. coordination of Title I program with other programs
5. implementation of sustained research-based professional development
6. established partnerships with parents, families, and the community