

GESD News

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Bicentennial South among NCEA 2011 List of Higher Performing Schools in Arizona

AUSTIN, Texas — The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA), in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, released its 2011 NCEA Higher Performing Schools List for Arizona on its [website](#). The list identifies those elementary, middle, and high schools in Arizona that have consistently outperformed their peers with similar student populations over a three-year period from 2008-09 through the 2010-11 school year.

The list includes several schools whose student population is almost entirely comprised of economically disadvantaged students. Among those that stand out are Bicentennial South in the Glendale Elementary School District.

“To have been selected for this recognition is a true tribute to the work and dedication of the Bicentennial South teachers and staff,” said Bicentennial South Principal Dr. Sue Pederson. “To a person, our teachers and staff are committed to providing our students with the best education possible, and, along with our partnerships with our students’ families, that commitment is clearly reflected in the outstanding work of our students.”

“The list of Higher Performing Schools is a valuable tool for any district that wants to evaluate areas of performance that might need strengthening. It’s also a great way to compare your school or your district to other schools of similar demographics in the state of Arizona,” says Angela Hall Watkins, assistant vice president and managing director of NCEA. “The schools that really stand out are those that, over several years, have gone above and beyond their expected achievement levels given their socioeconomic status. Such commitment is truly impressive, and is a testament to the fact that economic obstacles can indeed be overcome with dedication and perseverance.”

NCEA identified the Higher Performing Schools based on one or both of two measures: consistent improvement in student achievement from previous years (growth); and/or absolute student achievement using the schools’ Exceeds Standards results on the 2009 through 2011 Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS).

All Arizona schools on the list received special recognition at an event hosted by the Arizona Business & Education Coalition earlier this week.

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