



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five South Carolina public schools nominated for Blue Ribbon recognition

COLUMBIA – The South Carolina Department of Education is nominating one high school and four elementary schools for recognition in the 2010 [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#), State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex announced today.

The program, run by the U.S. Department of Education, honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

“These five schools have excellent records in student achievement,” Rex said. “They make it possible for each and every student to succeed, and they are led by outstanding principals working with dedicated teachers and support staff.”

The nominees are:

- [Greenville Technical Charter High School](#), Greenville County School District;
- [Powdersville Elementary School](#), Anderson School District One;
- [Howe Hall Arts Infused Magnet School](#), Berkeley County School District;
- [Ballentine Elementary School](#), School District Five of Richland and Lexington Counties; and
- [Charles Pinckney Elementary School](#), Charleston County School District

In the past, any school could apply to compete in the National Blue Ribbon program, but modifications in 2001 made selection criteria consistent with the goals of the federal [No Child Left Behind Act](#). The federal Education Department determines how many nominees each state can submit. South Carolina may nominate five public schools, and those submitted must meet one of two criteria:

1. schools that have more than 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and that achieve in the top 10 percent of schools in the state, or
2. schools that have less than 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and that achieve in the top 10 percent of schools in the state.

Powdersville Elementary and the Howe Hall magnet school met the first criterion, while the other nominees met the second. All five schools not only met the basic criteria, but also scored higher against those criteria than other South Carolina schools. Nominees have to make [Adequate Yearly Progress](#) (AYP) under No Child Left Behind for the most recent two consecutive years to be eligible for National Blue Ribbon recognition. The 2010 winners will be announced next fall, and the awards ceremony will be held in Washington in November.