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Critchfield Issues Statement Congratulating Teton Elementary School for National Blue Ribbon School Status

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield would like to extend her congratulations to the educators, staff and students at Teton Elementary School for their school’s designation as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School.

“I’m delighted to congratulate Teton Elementary School today and I’m so excited that the U.S. Department of Education is raising the profile of an Idaho school that’s going the extra mile to make the difference for their students and community,” said Critchfield. “National recognition is always exciting, and I hope that everyone at Teton is taking a moment to celebrate their well-earned place in the spotlight today.”

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education recognizes a selection of schools from across the country for their overall academic performance or for their progress in closing assessment achievement gaps. This year, Teton Elementary School in the Fremont County Joint School District was among 353 schools identified for this distinction, receiving recognition in the “exemplary high performing schools” category.

To learn more about the National Blue Ribbon School award and to access a complete list of 2023 award winners, visit <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

Below is the U.S. Department of Education press release, issued today:

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Communications & Outreach, Press Office
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

CONTACT:
Press Office, (202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov

One Idaho School Named Among the 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools

The U.S. Department of Education today recognized 353 schools as [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) for 2023, including one school in Idaho. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups on assessments.

The Idaho school named among the National Blue Ribbon Schools was:

- Teton – Teton Elementary School, Fremont County Joint District # 215.

“The honorees for our 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for what it means to Raise the Bar in education,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “The leaders, educators, and staff at our National Blue Ribbon Schools continually inspire me with their dedication to fostering academic excellence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. As the Biden-Harris Administration partners with states and schools to accelerate academic success and transform educational opportunity in this country, we take tremendous pride in the achievements of these schools and their commitment to empowering educators, serving students, and engaging families.”

With its 40th cohort, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,700 schools. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms and validates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for – and attaining – exemplary achievement. National Blue Ribbon Schools represent the full diversity of American schools and serve students of every background.

While awardee schools represent the diverse fabric of American schools, they also share some core elements. National Blue Ribbon School leaders articulate a vision of excellence and hold everyone to high standards. They demonstrate effective and innovative teaching and learning, and the schools value and support teachers and staff through meaningful professional learning. Data from many sources are used to drive instruction and every student strives for success. Families, communities, and educators work together toward common goals.

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective and innovative school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

The Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- **Exemplary High-Performing Schools** are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- **Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools** are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students. Nominated schools also complete an extensive narrative application describing their school culture and philosophy, curriculum, assessments, instructional

practices, professional development, leadership structures, and parent and community involvement.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at <https://www.nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>.

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