



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## TWO IDAHO SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(BOISE) – Superintendent Sherri Ybarra announced today that Rulon M. Ellis Elementary of the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District and Clearwater Valley Elementary of the Mountain View School District are the recipients of The National Title I Association Distinguished Schools Program Award.

This prestigious award is given annually and recognizes qualifying Title I schools from each state for their outstanding achievements in education. Only two schools per state are selected each year as National Title I Distinguished Schools.

“Announcing these two distinguished schools today for their hard work and exceptional student performance is one of the most important things we as a state can do—recognize the hard work and effort that occurs in Idaho’s classrooms,” Superintendent Sherri Ybarra said. “Regardless of their student’s backgrounds, economic status, or prior performance levels, these two schools recognize that every student can achieve, and this award recognizes their hard work and effort.”

In order for a school to qualify for the Distinguished School Award, it must:

1. Have a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected school year;
2. Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years;
3. Met or exceeded state-determined criteria based on two or more consecutive years of achievement data.

Idaho has selected one qualifying school in each of the following categories:

### Category 1:

Rulon M. Ellis Elementary has been named as a distinguished school for being in the top 5% of schools meeting the qualifying criteria. At Rulon M. Ellis Elementary, economically disadvantaged students performed 25.9 percentage points higher than the state average. Students with disabilities performed 29.9 percentage points higher than the state average.

<b>Rulon M. Ellis Elementary School (K-5) Pocatello District #025</b>				
Sub group	State Average in Math by subgroup	ISAT Year	Rulon Elementary % Proficient in Math by subgroup	Percentage Points above the State average in Math by subgroup
Economically Disadvantaged	28.5% state average in Math	2015	54.4%	25.9%
		2016	54.4%	25.9%
Students with Disabilities	13% state average in Math	2015	23.8%	10.8%
		2016	42.9%	29.9%



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**Category 2:**

Clearwater Valley Elementary has been named as a distinguished school for being in the top 5% of schools meeting the qualifying criteria. For student who are economically disadvantaged, achievement increased by 25.25 percentage points. The Hispanic or Latino student subgroup achievement increased by 42.5 percentage points, while the students with disabilities subgroup achievement increased by 35.3 percentage points.

<b>Clearwater Valley Elementary (K-6) (Mountain View District #244)</b>	Mathematics (2014-15 to 2015-16)
Percentage Points increase for Economically Disadvantaged Students	25.5
Percentage Points increase for Hispanic or Latino Students	42.5
Percentage Points increase for Students with Disabilities	35.3

Both schools will be honored at the National Title I Conference in Long Beach, California February 22-25, 2017. Each school will also receive a monetary award from the Title I Academic Achievement Award fund.

For more information about Title I, please visit the Idaho State Department of Education website at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/index.html>. Further questions may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at [jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov).

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