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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Two Alaska schools named Distinguished Title I Schools

JUNEAU -- Mountain View Elementary School in the Anchorage School District and Anderson Elementary School in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District have been named National Title I Distinguished Schools by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Commissioner Barbara Thompson announced today.

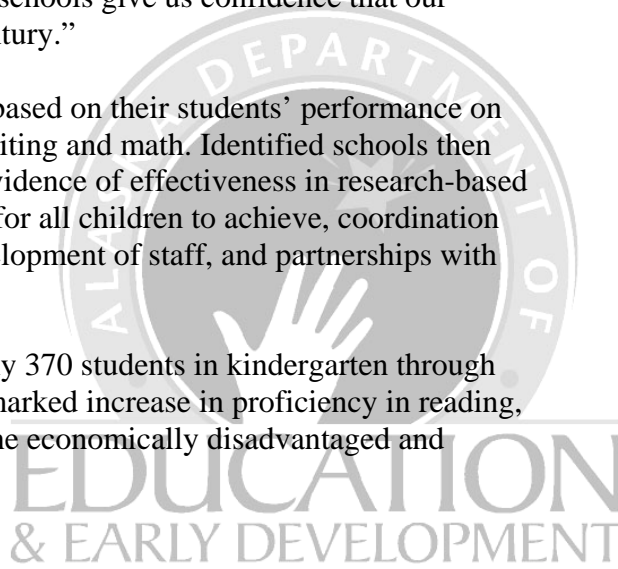
Anderson Elementary was recognized for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. Mountain View Elementary was recognized for significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups.

Title I schools receive federal funds to support programs that supplement instruction to meet the educational needs of low-achieving students in high-poverty schools. The National Title I Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors. Selected schools have a poverty rate of at least 35 percent and have met or exceeded state standards for making adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years. Each state, using its own selection process, may select two schools for the honor.

"The staff, parents and students of Mountain View school and Anderson school serve as inspirations for all Alaskans," said Alaska Education Commissioner Barbara Thompson. "The State Board of Education & Early Development believes that all students can meet Alaska's academic standards. These recognized schools give us confidence that our public schools can meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Alaska identifies eligible schools for the award based on their students' performance on state standards-based assessments in reading, writing and math. Identified schools then must choose to apply for the honor, providing evidence of effectiveness in research-based instructional strategies, providing opportunities for all children to achieve, coordination of Title I with other programs, professional development of staff, and partnerships with parents, families and communities.

Mountain View Elementary serves approximately 370 students in kindergarten through grade 6. Since 2004, its students have shown a marked increase in proficiency in reading, writing and math. In particular, the students in the economically disadvantaged and



limited English proficient subgroups have seen significant gains. “Student achievement is what we are in the business of providing and students at Mountain View Elementary School can expect to achieve,” according to the school’s application for the award.

Anderson Elementary, one of the top 10 percent of all schools in the state, serves approximately 350 students in kindergarten through grade 3. It is located on Eielson Air Force Base. The school’s award application said: “Anderson Elementary staff members hold high expectations for the achievement of all students. Our goal is to provide the necessary support, resources and inspirational instruction for every child to ensure he or she is able to meet these expectations.”

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