

## Castle Recognizes Delaware's Blue Ribbon Schools -- October 1, 2007

Newark, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle joined the Department of Education and the Christina School District today to acknowledge Etta J. Wilson Elementary School as Blue Ribbon School through No Child Left Behind, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Joseph M. McVey Elementary School in Newark and Lancashire Elementary School in Wilmington were also selected for the award. These schools are three of 287 awardees nationally for 2007. The three schools were selected among public and private K-12 schools for helping to close the achievement gap and for their students who achieve at very high levels. Rep. Castle credits the selection of these schools and the achievement of their students to No Child Left Behind.

"It is quite an accomplishment for Delaware to have three schools selected for this honor, and I commend the students, teachers, and administrators in all of them for their efforts and hard work to earn this achievement. No Child Left Behind has been a critical piece of legislation that has worked to improve education in Delaware and across the nation. With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Congress has the opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner to craft legislation that will ensure every child received a quality education and enable our nation's students to learn," said Castle.

According to the Department of Education, the schools are selected based criteria including:

- Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests.
- Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

Under No Child Left Behind, schools must make Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, in reading and language arts and mathematics. Each state-not the federal government-sets its own academic standards and benchmark goals, because each state knows best what goals and criteria are most appropriate for its school districts.

The 2007 No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. November 12-13.

For more information on the program and a list of the winners log onto <http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>.

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