

For Immediate Release: September 23, 2004

Arlington Traditional School Earns Blue Ribbon Award

The US Department of Education has announced that Arlington Traditional School is a recipient of the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award. The award recognizes ATS for providing students with a strong curriculum and making giant strides in state measured standardized testing in recent years.

“This award confirms our own assessment of ATS as an excellent school delivering the Arlington Public Schools curriculum in an exemplary way. The students at ATS have consistently scored among the very top scoring schools in the state on the Virginia Standards of Learning tests,” said Superintendent Robert G. Smith. “I congratulate them and their parents, along with their outstanding Principal Holly Hawthorne and her highly effective faculty.”

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Program was created in 2003 and honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Arlington Tradition School was one of only six Virginia schools to receive the honor.

The program requires schools to meet either of two assessment criteria stating that (1) schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance in accordance with state assessment systems and/or (2) schools that score in the top 10 percent on state assessments.

A preliminary screening by the Virginia Department of Education early last November revealed that ATS met the criteria for the Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award and at the request and invitation of the US Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Education, ATS staff submitted an application to be considered for the recognition.

The 12-page application requires applicants to provide data relative to the schools SOL scores, ethnic diversity, and school ratios among other things. Applicants also have to provide written summaries discussing how the school uses assessment data to understand and improve student and school performance and how the school communicates this information and shares it with other schools. The final part of the application asks applicants to describe the school’s curriculum and indicate how it relates to the school’s mission. Additionally, applicants were asked to discuss the different instructional methods the school uses to improve student learning and explain how the school’s professional development program impacts improving student achievement.

For more information contact 703-228-6004.