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Lakewood Local Schools' Jackson Intermediate School Nationally Recognized for Success in 2023

Named a Distinguished School by the National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act State Program Administrators

Jackson Intermediate School (JIS) in the Lakewood Local School District has been named a National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished School by the state education agency in Ohio. Jackson Intermediate School is one of up to 100 schools throughout the country that is being nationally recognized for exceptional student achievement in 2023.

2023 NATIONAL ESEA

**DISTINGUISHED
SCHOOL**



“This recognition is such an honor for Jackson Intermediate and the larger Lakewood Local Schools’ community,” said Dr. Mark Gleichauf, Superintendent. “The pursuit of improving student outcomes is a journey, not a destination. This is one of those times on that journey to take stock in our efforts. Lakewood teachers and administrators are doing the right things to improve these student outcomes. I am pleased they have received recognition from outside our district for their work in this area.”

A project of National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA), the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program publicly recognizes qualifying federally funded schools for the outstanding academic achievements of their students. It highlights the efforts of schools nationwide to make significant improvements for their students. The program has been in place since 1996, showcasing the success of hundreds of schools in one of three categories:

- Category 1: Exceptional student performance and academic growth, as determined by each state
- Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups, as determined by each state
- Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

Jackson was recognized in Category 1.

"I am so proud of all of our students, families, and staff at Jackson Intermediate," said Jackson Principal Beth Cline. "These kids and adults are working hard every day and it's great to see that effort being rewarded with this recognition. Each year, the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Federal Programs has the opportunity to nominate two schools for this prestigious recognition. Congratulations to all of our Jackson Intermediate community."

About Lakewood Local School District

Lakewood Local School District is a Pre-K through 12th-grade district supporting over 1,800 students in five schools – Lakewood Preschool, Lakewood Elementary School, Jackson Intermediate School, Lakewood Middle School, and Lakewood High School. Our philosophy on education is student-centered, focusing on how our educational practices support student success beyond their time in our buildings. And we value the way our community works with us to drive student learning and achievement. Our focus is evident in our mission statement: "Reimagining education, instilling community pride, inspiring future success." Our purpose is to educate and care for the whole student. We accomplish this by teaching and nurturing students through our Leaders and Learners program at all grade levels. Students are taught from a very young age to collaborate, be curious, be creative, think critically, communicate, commit, and show good character. These skills are critical for success in the school-age years and beyond. We aim to graduate our students to a post-high school experience that is fruitful and positive, whether that is a two- or four-year degree program, apprenticeship, work placement, or military service. For more information on our schools, please visit our [website](#).

About NAESPA

NAESPA is a membership organization made up of State ESEA Program Administrators, and their staff from each of the states and territories, charged with managing their state federal education program. They ensure compliance with federal regulations, but more importantly, work to see that all children — especially those living in economically disadvantaged conditions — have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. The ESEA provides additional resources for vulnerable students and federal grants to state educational agencies to improve the quality of public elementary and secondary education.

NAESPA implements the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program to highlight selected schools that have successfully used their ESEA federal funds to improve the education of all students—including economically disadvantaged students. More information about all National ESEA Distinguished Schools is available on the ESEA Network website: www.ESEAnetwork.org/ds.

For more information about the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators, contact Dr. M. Edward Cheeks, Chief Program Officer, at distinguishedschools@ESEAnetwork.org.