

2024 National Blue Ribbon School – Garvin Memorial Elementary School



The U.S. Department of Education has named Garvin Memorial Elementary School in Cumberland as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024, honoring the school's significant academic achievements. Garvin Memorial School is recognized as Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School. State leaders applauded the schools for their recognition.

"We are incredibly proud of our schools being recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools. This achievement reflects the dedication of our educators, students, and families to improving student outcomes," said **Governor Dan McKee**. "Congratulations to the Barrington, Cumberland, and Providence education communities on this tremendous achievement."

"Garvin Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Sowams Elementary exemplify what is possible when we prioritize equity and high standards for every student," said **Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green**. "We applaud these school communities and remain committed to building on this success to ensure all Rhode Island students have the opportunity to achieve at the highest levels."

The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms and validates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for – and attaining – exemplary achievement. National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- **Exemplary High-Performing Schools** are among their state's highest-performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

- **Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools** are among their state's highest-performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

"The Blue Ribbon recognition is a tremendous achievement and a well-deserved honor for Garvin Memorial School," **said CPS Superintendent Dr. Philip D. Thornton**. "The consistent focus on student proficiency and the strong teamwork approach make this a very special award. Cumberland is very proud to have Garvin be the third school in the district to attain this designation since 2017."

"National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation and Garvin certainly fits the bill," **said Mayor Jeffery Mutter** "The staff, students, and families have worked tirelessly to address achievement gaps through instruction every school day. I'm incredibly proud of the way the school models a positive and encouraging learning environment for all students. A job well done by all!"

"We are so grateful to be recognized for this prestigious award. The teachers and staff at Garvin have worked tirelessly to address achievement gaps through their instruction every school day. Teacher collaboration through Common Planning Time has helped us determine specific needs that our Special Educators and Interventionists have targeted during small group instruction," **said Garvin Memorial Elementary Principal Michelle Carter**. "We promote a positive learning culture across the school and help students continuously achieve success. We are proud of our students' hard work and effort. Their progress and determination are truly admirable and deserving of this recognition. It is an honor to serve this community, and we can't wait to celebrate as a whole school."

Garvin Memorial is one of 3 in Rhode Island and one of 356 schools nationwide selected to join more than 10,000 schools who have been recognized by the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program since its inception in 1982. Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. You can learn more about this year's winners here;

<https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/recognition-programs/national-blue-ribbon-schools-program>





