



U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced today that three schools within the Rochester Community School District were awarded National Blue Ribbon status for 2017. Only 13 schools were nominated statewide.

Brewster Elementary, Hamlin Elementary, and Rochester Adams High School received recognition under the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Program. The three schools join two other Rochester Community Schools, Musson Elementary School and Van Hoosen Middle School, who earned National Blue Ribbon status in 2014.

“We are extremely proud of the fact that Rochester Community Schools has the most Blue Ribbon schools of any district in the state this year,” said Superintendent Robert Shaner, Ph.D. “Although we are pleased with the recognition that the individual schools have obtained, we are equally as proud of the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families at all of our schools. We celebrate success across the district.”

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.”

“In its early years, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program included a self-nominating process, and for a long time, the state of Michigan elected not to participate. In 2014, the process changed to where the state would nominate schools based on specific criteria,” said Executive Director of Elementary Education Michael Behrmann.

Rochester Adams is the only high school in the state to have received Blue Ribbon status in the state since 2014. “It is truly an honor to have Rochester Adams be the only high school to receive National Blue Ribbon status since the restructuring of the program,” said Executive Director of Secondary Education Carrie Lawler. “There’s a tremendous amount of teamwork that goes into achieving such success.”

“We are proud of the systemic growth that we’ve seen across the district. It’s due to the hard work of the community—our students, our families, teachers, administrators and support staff—rallying around our strategic plan, which calls for a world-class education for all our students,” said Shaner. “What we have at Rochester Community Schools is something very special.”