



## Three More Waterford Schools Named Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

**January 19, 2005 Waterford, Mich.** - Haviland, Houghton, and Schoolcraft Elementary Schools have been selected as Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools by the Michigan Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon, the most prestigious education award in the state, distinguishes Haviland, Houghton, and Schoolcraft for their excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.

Superintendent Tom Tattan said these awards represent a great honor for the students, teachers, staff members, and parents of Haviland, Houghton, and Schoolcraft Elementary Schools. "It's a powerful validation of the hard work and commitment that have led to our focus on quality and continuing improvement," Tattan said, adding, "This is just the beginning of our journey. We've reached these high standards and the Blue Ribbon Award inspires us to even greater achievements."

Schools selected for recognition prepared an extensive written nomination package representing a thorough self-evaluation. The process involved assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the school and developing improvement plans for the future. When evaluating nominations, the Department of Education looks for overall school quality, including challenging standards and curriculum, excellent teaching, ongoing professional development by teachers and staff members, a safe and supportive school environment, family and community partnerships that contribute to school quality, and high or improving student performance on measures of achievement.

These Waterford schools were three of 32 elementary schools selected this year for this award. Established in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program celebrates elementary and secondary schools, in alternate years, and has evolved to place a strong emphasis on school improvement.

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