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CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us or
Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

Two South Dakota schools honored as National Title I Distinguished Schools

PIERRE, S.D. – Anne Sullivan Elementary (Sioux Falls) and Leola Elementary were among those honored today as National Title I Distinguished Schools at the National Title I Conference in Long Beach, Calif.

[Leola Elementary](#) was honored for significantly closing the achievement gap, and Anne Sullivan Elementary has exhibited excellence in serving a special population of students (English learners).

“Seeing educators receive this honor on behalf of their schools is great fun,” said Ann Larsen, director of educational services and support for the South Dakota Department of Education. “The opening ceremony and recognition of schools is like a big pep rally. At home, these educators are among their students’ strongest cheerleaders, and at this conference, educators get the cheers.”

National Title I Distinguished Schools are selected by their state education agency and must qualify under one of three categories: exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years; closing the achievement gap between student groups; and excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.).



Anne Sullivan Elementary staff



Leola Elementary staff