



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### **Bartlett City Schools recognized as one of 12 Exemplary school districts for 2014-2015**

Bartlett City Schools is honored to be one of 12 districts across the state to receive the Department of Education's highest designation, being recognized as an Exemplary district. Today, the TDOE recognized 12 of the 142 school districts in the State that significantly improved student performance and narrowed achievement gaps under Tennessee's accountability system. Superintendent David Stephens shared, "From day one, I have stressed our goal to build a strong base. Being an Exemplary district is a tribute to the hard work of our students, teachers, support staff, and parents. I am grateful for the support of our school board. Their impact should not be overlooked." BCS Board Chairman Jeff Norris added, "This is a testament to important work done this past year by Superintendent Stephens, his administrators, and all the great teachers in Bartlett City Schools. This designation lays a great foundation for the district. I am excited as we look ahead and move towards more innovative approaches to individualizing student education."

Districts reach Exemplary status if they:

- Meet the majority of their achievement goals,
- Meet majority of their goals to close achievement gaps, and
- Ensure every subgroup—students with disabilities, racial minorities, English Learners, and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds—also moves forward in a majority of its target areas.

These three requirements show that Bartlett City Schools is raising proficiency levels, narrowing achievement gaps, and guaranteeing growth for all students.

We are also pleased to announce that Bon Lin Elementary School has been awarded Reward School status. Each year, the Tennessee Department of Education designates Reward Schools based on student performance. These schools are the top 5 percent of schools in the state for performance—as measured by overall student achievement levels—and the top 5 percent for year-over-year progress—as measured by school-wide value-added data. These 10 percent of schools receive recognition for their success under the accountability system.

While BCS is extremely proud of its inaugural year's work, we recognize the need to ensure continued growth in student learning. Supporting our teachers as they meet students' needs is a priority. Our strategic plan includes differentiated instruction and support for all students, increasing student engagement through the use of technology, and effective professional development for teachers and staff.

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