



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Eastern Technical High School Awarded Maryland Blue Ribbon School Designation** *Outstanding student performance earns re-nomination for national award*

TOWSON, MD. (December 15, 2009) - The Maryland State Department of Education announced today that Eastern Technical High School in Essex is one of six schools throughout the state to be named a 2009 Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

This is the second time Eastern Tech has won the Maryland Blue Ribbon School honor, a recognition of the school's continued tradition of high academic performance and student success. Eastern is the only high school in Maryland to win the award this year and the first to win it twice, according to state officials. The school previously won the Blue Ribbon honor in 1997.

State officials will submit the school's achievement record for a national Blue Ribbon designation. Awardees will be announced by the U.S. Department of Education in fall 2010.

In past years, 11 Baltimore County Public Schools have received this national Blue Ribbon award. Last month, Seventh District Elementary School in Parkton was bestowed the award. Last week, Eastern was the only Baltimore County school to win a prestigious Silver Medal from the *U.S. News & World Reports* rating of the nation's best high schools.

"The Maryland Blue Ribbon and *U.S. News* Silver awards for Eastern Technical High School remind us that raising academic achievement is an ongoing mission for our school system," said Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent, Baltimore County Public Schools. "As we celebrate Eastern's honors along with its dedicated teachers, administrators, parents, and students, we continue to follow our *Blueprint for Progress* to ensure the same level of excellence, academic rigor, and educational opportunities for all public school students across Baltimore County."

## Eastern Technical High School wins Maryland Blue Ribbon award

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Blue Ribbon School designation is a state and national program that recognizes schools that meet rigorous standards developed by the Maryland State Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

Eastern Tech Principal Thomas Evans said that receiving the Blue Ribbon honor validates the hard work of many. "This second Maryland Blue Ribbon Award for Eastern Tech is the result of an exemplary team effort – excellent teachers, focused and motivated students, supportive and involved parents, along with effective leadership throughout the public school system," Evans said.

Eastern Technical High School received its award today at a special ceremony at the Maryland State Department of Education in Baltimore.

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Under the leadership of Superintendent Joe A. Hairston, Ed.D., Baltimore County Public Schools, the nation's 26th largest school district, educates 104,000 students each year. Following its *Blueprint for Progress*, BCPS increases academic rigor and student achievement for all. BCPS attracts recognition for its emphasis on college-readiness, use of innovative technology, and the excellence of its high schools and fine arts instruction.