



The
National Forum
Advancing Excellence in the Middle Grades

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2023

Contact:

Cathy Perry, Executive Director
800-326-1880, ext. 102
cperry@leagueofschools.org

New & Redesignating National Schools to Watch Announced for 2023

IRVINE, CA – Today, 189 exemplary middle-grades schools in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Virginia have been named **National Schools to Watch** as part of a recognition and continuous improvement program developed by the National Forum, a nonprofit educators' association. [See the complete list of the 2023 National Schools to Watch.](#)

Each school was selected by state leaders to serve as a model to mentor other schools because of its demonstrated social equity, developmental responsiveness, academic excellence, and innovative systems. Schools to Watch have different strengths and challenges, but what they share is a dedication to young adolescents and a commitment to helping all students belong, learn, and grow. In addition, Schools to Watch have strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to continuous improvement that is based on supporting the whole child through social, emotional, and academic growth.

"When you walk on a School to Watch campus in any state, you feel the difference," said Cathy Perry, National Forum executive director. "Students can't wait to tell you about their school. Parents line up to meet with the visiting Schools to Watch team. Teachers work together and have camaraderie. Administrators are true instructional leaders. The Schools to Watch program has shown that when you take care of students and staff, everyone is motivated to learn at higher levels."

For 2023, 134 schools redesignated and 55 new schools were added as Schools to Watch. The schools vary in size from several hundred to several thousand students. They represent urban, suburban, and rural communities and feature a wide mix of cultures, languages, ethnicities, and community assets. All together, there are 17 states in the Schools to Watch program and there are over 600 Schools to Watch nationwide.

The 2023 Schools to Watch will convene at the [National Schools to Watch Conference](#) in the Washington, DC metro area June 22-24, 2023.

About the National Forum

The National Forum is an alliance of educators, researchers, national associations, and officers of professional organizations and foundations dedicated to improving middle-grades education for young adolescents. Launched by the National Forum in 1999, Schools to Watch began as a national program to identify exceptional middle-grades schools across the country. In 2002, the Forum began working with states to replicate the Schools to Watch program at the state level to promote expansion. Each state receives training and support to implement the Schools to Watch program.

###