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Silva Magnet, Dr. Green Elementary earn 2017 Blue Ribbons

EL PASO, TEXAS — Two of El Paso's Blue Ribbon Awards for 2017 went to campuses in the El Paso Independent School District.

Dr. Green Elementary School received its first Blue Ribbon and Maxine Silva Health Magnet High School received an unprecedented third Blue Ribbon, the U.S. Department of Education announced on Thursday.

The Blue Ribbon is considered one of the most prestigious prizes given to a school in the country.

"We are beyond proud of the work that is happening inside our campuses. Teachers and students have embraced active learning as a transformative tool in education," EPISD Superintendent Juan Cabrera said. "Silva and Green are clear examples of schools making a difference in the lives of students and their families."

With the addition of Green, there are now 12 EPISD schools that have earned at least one Blue Ribbon since the program began in 1982.

Besides Green and Silva, the other schools are: Crockett Elementary, Schuster Elementary, Hillside Elementary, Coldwell Elementary, Douglass Elementary, Transmountain Early College High, Cielo Vista Elementary and Lamar Elementary.

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Thursday announced that a total of 342 public, charter and private schools had earned a Blue Ribbon this year based on their achievements on closing the performance gaps among student subgroups.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master modern learning.

Green and Silva celebrated their awards on Thursday with student assemblies and other fun activities.

The celebrations were especially meaningful for Silva, the only school in El Paso ever to earn three Blue Ribbons.

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“Having three Blue Ribbon is no easy feat and this accomplishment rests solely on the work done by our students and teachers,” said Jefferson/Silva Principal Fred Rojas. “Silva prides itself as a great school, and this award is further recognition that our efforts are making a difference.”

This is Green’s first Blue Ribbon, but the school is equally as excited.

“We are joining an elite group of schools,” Principal Judy Quintana said. “It’s proof positive that our students, teachers and parents have worked hard to provide this community a world-class education.”

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