

# Ocean Gate school gets U.S. Blue Ribbon honor

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**OCEAN GATE** — In the municipality that was the first in the state to erect a wind turbine last year, a school has received national recognition.

Ocean Gate Elementary School was named a 2010 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education on Thursday.

"This is the highest honor bestowed on a school by the U.S. Department of Education," said Frank B. Vanalesti, superintendent and principal at

the school, in a prepared statement. "I am very proud that our school is one of the best schools in our nation. This is a dream come true. Our entire school community has worked very hard to attain this recognition and they deserve it."

The small school, which has 156 students in preschool through sixth grade, was one of 10 schools in the state, and the only one in Ocean County, to receive this recognition.

According to a release

by the Department of Education, the award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement especially among disadvantaged and minority students. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has honored schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

"Our children are very

excited, as they know they are all part of this special small school," Vanalesti said. "Today, you could hear the kids and teachers cheer all the way to Washington, D.C."

There are 254 public and 50 private schools that will be honored at an awards ceremony Nov. 15 to 16 in Washington.

"Our nation has a responsibility to help all children realize their full potential," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a statement. "Schools honored with the

Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed. Their work reflects the conviction that every child has promise and must receive a quality education."

A list of the 2010 Blue Ribbon Schools is avail-

able at [www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html). Other New Jersey winners are in Fort Lee, Ridgefield Park, Lawrenceville, Newark, Livingston, Colonia, Edison and North Arlington.

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