

District Celebrates Award-Winning School

ELIZABETH – Elizabeth Public Schools is celebrating the naming of Elmora School No. 12 as a New Jersey Grade 4 Benchmark School by the Business Coalition for Educational Excellence (BCEE) at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

Annually, the BCEE uses data from the Just for the Kids website to select schools that have demonstrated outstanding student performance on the state's standardized assessments in grades 4, 8 and 11. Recognized schools have outperformed other schools of similar size and student populations, as defined by low income and limited English proficient status. Because of their student performance, these schools are designated as Benchmark Schools and are celebrated at an annual breakfast event.

The breakfast is an opportunity for the business and education communities to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of the school personnel in preparing their students to be the best. Each Benchmark School receives a large (2'x 4') indoor/outdoor banner for display on or in the building.

The list of Benchmark Schools is not made public until the day of the celebratory breakfast and selected schools are asked to not share the information until that time. Elizabeth Public Schools' Elmora School No. 12 has proven to be exemplary on state assessments and was one of 27 other elementary schools in the State of New Jer-

sey to be selected at the Grade 4 level.

"I am absolutely thrilled we *(continued on page...20)* were acknowledged by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. I'm especially happy that we are visibly closing the achievement gap, systematically, team member by team member and student by student," said Principal Carolina Cespedes.

"We are ecstatic for all our students."

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz was also delighted with the news.

"We are working extremely hard as a school district to achieve excellence. This acknowledgement confirms our dedication to and our philosophy for all students. We are very proud of the students of Elmora School No. 12," he said.

