

## EDUCATION

# E-town school earns national award

*High school becomes 1 of 3 in Pennsylvania recognized for academic achievement*



SUZETTE WENGER | FILE PHOTO

Elizabethtown Area High School students walk into school at the start of the first day of school on Aug. 23, 2021. Elizabethtown is one of three high schools in Pennsylvania recognized this year by the U.S. Department of Education with a Blue Ribbon award for academic achievement.

**CHRISTINA WAASBERGEN**

CWAASBERGEN@LNPNEWS.COM

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Created in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools each year for academic achievement or for closing achievement gaps among student groups. The department announced Tuesday the 353 schools honored this year, 13 of which are in Pennsylvania. Elizabethtown Area High School was the only school in Lancaster County to be named as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School.

The school was recognized for overall academic achievement. According to its application for the award, among its achievements are scores 16% above the state average in

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English/Language Arts and 52% above the state average in Algebra I.

“We’re extremely proud of the students, staff and support of the community in earning this award,” Principal Jason D’Amico said. “It certainly is a tribute to the people and practices we have here at E-Town.”

Up to 420 schools may be nominated for a Blue Ribbon award each year. The application process for the award is lengthy. A school must provide an extensive narrative application in which they describe their school culture and philosophy, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, professional development, leadership structures and parent and community involvement. D’Amico said it took Elizabethtown Area High School around a month to a month and a half to complete the application.

In November, D’Amico, Nell and one other staff member will travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in an award ceremony for Blue Ribbon Schools.