



# MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

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## Maine South Named National Blue Ribbon School

Dear Maine South Parents and Students,

Congratulations!! We have just been notified that Maine South has been named a 2019 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. There are two categories of recognition and Maine South was recognized in the overall academic performance.

As part of the rigorous application process, the school shared with the committee that *“students who attend Maine South have exposure to one of the most challenging curricula in the United States. Because of this, the average student graduates with close to one year in college credit earned through Advanced Placement (AP) and dual-credit courses at Oakton Community College and Eastern Illinois University. Our goal is to place students in an internship experience before they leave high school; through over 600 business partnerships district-wide, students are able to explore career options in law, finance, hospitality management, and other non-profit and corporate enterprises. Maine South offers nearly every course available through the AP Program and supplements these opportunities with extension offerings ranging from Multivariable Calculus to independent study interests such as machine learning. While completing coursework, students have a tiered return-on-investment (ROI) career and college advisement model that begins freshman year and continues in scheduled advisories with counselors through their senior year.”*

In addition, the application also shared: *“At Maine South High School we foster a positive school climate by focusing on building strong relationships between students and staff that are based on respect, kindness, and positive affirmation. We believe that it is important to hear everyone’s voice to ensure that students and staff feel that Maine South is their “home away from home.” Several times throughout the year students are asked to express their thoughts and opinions by completing surveys developed by the Principal’s Advisory Committee (PAC), a group of student leaders advising administration on topics related to school climate. In order to create this culture with staff, administration runs “How Are We Doing?” sessions with each department to gather staff feedback and ideas on how to continue to promote a positive school culture. The deans invite staff to “Donuts with the Deans” where they can engage in open communication about our school trends.”*

The program is in its 37th year and has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools including Maine South previously in 1989, as well as Maine East in 1985 and Maine West in 1991. The award ceremony will be in Washington D.C. in November

Full list of [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) for 2019.

Whenever I'm in the community or around the state speaking on behalf of our school, I tell everyone that Maine South is the greatest high school in the United States of America. Today, we are recognized for that!

It's a great day to be a Hawk! We will have celebrations and recognition planned at upcoming events. Thank you so much for your continued support of our great school and GO HAWKS!!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Ben Collins Ed.D.

Proud Principal

Maine South: "The Greatest High School in the United States of America"