

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### **"Broad Foundation names school system finalists for award"**

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LOS ANGELES -- Bridgeport, Conn., public schools and four other urban school systems around the nation were named as finalists Wednesday for the Broad Prize for Education, an annual competition with awards totaling \$1 million.

The award honors school districts making the greatest progress in raising student achievement.

Another finalist, the Long Beach, Calif., Unified School District, which took the Broad Prize in 2003, is the first former winning district to return to the competition as a finalist since the program began in 2002. This is the first year that Long Beach has again been eligible.

This year, 100 of the largest urban school districts nationwide were eligible for the competition.

This year's other finalists are Miami-Dade County Public Schools, New York City Department of Education and Northside Independent School District in northwest San Antonio.

The winner will be announced on Sept. 18 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The winning district will receive \$500,000 in scholarships for graduating seniors and each of the four other finalist districts will receive \$125,000 in scholarships.

"After decades of decline, American public education continues to struggle compared with other industrialized nations, yet these five urban school districts have proven that with hard work, it is possible to raise student achievement in our inner cities," said philanthropist Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation.

"Other urban districts nationwide can learn a great deal from what is working in these five districts," he said.