



AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Guidelines & Entry Forms

This award will be given to a school district in recognition of an exemplary education program that maximizes student achievement. Please read the NCSBA Award for Excellence in Education Programs criteria, eligibility requirements, specifications for entry, and program categories before submitting your application. All instructions must be followed, or the entry may be disqualified.

CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM SELECTION

- **Has made a difference for students** - Examples include student evaluations or feedback demonstrating student satisfaction; surveys of parents, staff, or community; degree of participation in program; ensuring that all students who can benefit from the program are empowered to participate; data demonstrating that the program has undergone a rigorous evaluation and shows evidence of statistically significant improvements in student achievement, school environment, or other desired outcomes; significant improvements for participants, including clearly articulated program goals, identification of measurable outcomes, and evidence that demonstrates the program has generated cost savings that have released resources to provide greater services to students.
- **Is innovative or exemplary** - Examples include exemplary implementation of a program; comparably unique; creative approach to solving a problem or presenting a curriculum; use of new methods or technology to teach a needed skill or enhance the student experience; creative funding; etc. If a program has been replicated from another program, examples of how the program has been implemented in a unique or innovative manner.
- **Is connected to the board's vision and supported by the board** - Examples include: linkage between the program and the district's or county office's vision statement/goals or strategic plan.
- **Is sustainable** - Examples include length of time in operation; stable source of funding; high participation from students; sufficient staff knowledge and commitment to maintain the program; strong support from students, parents, educators, the community, and the board; a broad base of support and a strong structure in place to build the program; flexibility to meet changing needs; expansion to serve more students and/or school sites; etc.
- **Concepts can be replicated** - Examples include evidence that the program already has been or could be replicated; written goals and procedures; availability of staff to discuss the program and demonstrate effective strategies; evidence that the district and county office actively reaches out to other districts/county offices of education to assist them in replicating the

program; appropriateness for a different student population or staff; minimal needs for special facilities or equipment; reasonable costs for initial implementation and training.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Programs must have been in place for at least two years and still currently be in existence.

NOMINATION SPECIFICATIONS

Entries must meet all specifications in order to qualify.

- Entry Form Program Highlights including a summary about the program, not to exceed 500 words.
- One-page detailed narrative summarizing the program and the board's leadership role, typed and double-spaced
- Optional supporting materials, such as news articles, promotional handouts, etc.

OPTIONAL BACKUP MATERIALS

The judges will make decisions based on responses to the prompts on the nomination form and the one-page narrative. Backup materials are welcome, but they are optional and will not significantly affect the judges' decisions. Only send backup materials that support the nomination.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All items listed under the Nomination Specifications must be received by NCSBA on or before **October 12, 2018**.

Accountability/Assessment

Includes models/techniques for assessing student achievement and/or program effectiveness on a district wide basis and ensuring district accountability.

Bridging the Achievement Gap

Addresses efforts to ensure the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students, English language learners and other ethnic sub-groups of students is moving toward the highest-performing students in the school or district. Such efforts include intervention strategies, meaningful disaggregation of student performance data, professional development, etc.

Career Technical Education

Includes efforts to prepare students for both career and college, such as multiple pathways (linked learning), regional occupation programs, career exploration opportunities etc.

Character Education

Includes programs that strengthen student behavior in areas such as ethics, responsibility, integrity, justice and self-discipline.

Community Schools through Partnerships and Collaboration

Includes efforts to implement the community school strategy, which is a set of partnerships between the school, city, county, and community. Characteristics include a shared vision, shared leadership, and shared accountability; core educational programming; strong family engagement; expansion of learning opportunities; shared resources, and a comprehensive set of integrated services designed to meet the full range of learning and developmental needs of students.

Curriculum/Instruction

Includes models that utilize interdisciplinary teaching, thematic instruction, learning styles/multiple intelligences, technology, and/or other innovative or exemplary instructional strategies and integrated programs. Additionally, programs may be submitted in any of the following curricular areas:

- English/Language Arts/Reading
- History/Social Science
- Mathematics
- Science
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Other Content Areas

English Language Acquisition

Includes programs that effectively assist students in transitioning from their primary language to English.

Extracurricular

Includes programs outside of the regular curriculum that meet the needs of students and engage them in activities to strengthen their potential, including athletics, visual and performing arts, debate, moot court, and student government.

Early Childhood Education

Includes all programs that are developmentally appropriate for pre-kindergarten aged children; collaborative with cities/counties for educationally relevant childcare; focused on social-emotional development and learning, and Head Start programs.

Teacher Recruitment/Retention

Includes all professional development programs for staff, including teachers, administrators, and classified personnel. Includes beginning teacher support and assessment programs, as well as intern and credentialing programs. Recruitment programs include those that have proven successful in retaining teachers in the district and implementing strategies to attract and preserve teachers in critical shortage areas.

Technology

Includes the use of technology as an instructional tool that engages students in the curriculum, helps equip them for an increasingly technological society and job market, and provides greater access to educational services.

Invigorating High Schools

Includes programs that enhance student learning and engagement at the high school level, such as career connections, enriched curriculum, enhanced student engagement efforts, and innovative use of schedules and school calendars.

Student Services

Includes, but is not limited to, on-campus student service centers, parent education programs, counseling and intervention programs, peer assistance, and nutrition programs.

School safety

Includes programs that effectively prevent or reduce school violence by promoting a positive school climate, teaching students to resolve conflicts and/or other prevention or intervention strategies.

Parental/community involvement

Includes programs that encourage or facilitate parental involvement in their child's education, including outreach to diverse parent communities.

Special education

Includes programs designed to meet the needs of special education students, including children from birth to age 5.

Focus on Middle Grades

Includes programs to meet the unique needs of middle school students, including student engagement in school; school configurations; professional development; relevant curriculum; articulation with grade school and high school; and academic/social support systems

Sustainable, Renewable, Energy and Resource Efficient Programs

Includes programs that incorporate green practices into school operations and facilities. Also included are curricula and activities that promote principles of environmental awareness and resource conservation.

Wellness

Includes programs that address critical health issues and their links to student academic achievement, such as physical education and activity, nutrition, mental health, oral health, diabetes, indoor air quality, asthma, and more; efforts to expand school wellness policy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation; collaborative and coordinated school health approaches and other successful strategies in creating healthier students and school communities; etc.



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Entry Form

Name of School Board: _____

Name of Person Submitting Form: _____

Title/Email Address: _____

Mailing Address of Submitter: _____

Phone Number: _____ Program Website Address: _____
(if available)

Superintendent: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Implementation Date: _____

Please submit a one-page narrative summarizing the program and the board's leadership role.

CATEGORY

- Elementary Grades
- Middle Grades
- High School

TYPE OF PROGRAM

Check all that apply.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability/Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum/Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Parental/Community Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable, Renewable, Energy and Resource Efficient Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridging the Achievement Gap | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Technical Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Extracurricular | <input type="checkbox"/> School Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Recruitment/Retention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Character Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on Middle Grades | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Schools/Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Invigorating High Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness |



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Official Endorsement Form

This is to certify that the _____
Name of Board of Education

endorses the nomination of _____
Name of Program

to the North Carolina School Board Association's Award for Excellence in Educational Programs
and that this endorsement represents an official board action taken on

Date of Board Action

Board Chair's Signature

Print Board Chair's Name