



INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

2026 Guidelines & Entry Forms

The Innovation and Excellence in Public Education Award recognizes exemplary work undertaken by school boards that creatively found solutions to challenges faced in their district.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The program and/or creative approach must have been recently implemented and able to provide meaningful results.
- Examples of challenges faced by districts could be, but are not limited to
 - Community and Parental Engagement
 - Educational Technology
 - Student Achievement
 - School Safety and Security
 - Teacher Shortages and Retention

NOMINATION SPECIFICATIONS

- A completed entry form which includes a summary statement
- A maximum 500-word narrative which addresses the following:
 - Briefly summarize the issue faced by the district and how the program and/or approach originated
 - Describe key components of the program/creative approach
 - Detail how the outcomes of this program/creative approach have benefited your district
- Innovation and Excellence in Public Education Endorsement Form with the approval of the School Board Chair

OPTIONAL BACKUP MATERIALS

Backup materials to support the nomination are welcome (pictures, publications, letters of support, etc.).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All items listed under the nomination specifications must be received by NCSBA on or before **September 28, 2026**.



INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

2026 Entry Form

Name of Program/Award Nominee: _____

SUMMARY STATEMENT

In five to seven sentences, please summarize the board program/creative approach and how it has addressed the problem faced by your district.

Please submit the information below with the completed entry form

- ☐ 500-word (maximum) narrative
- ☐ Official Endorsement Form
- ☐ Backup Materials (optional)

Entries must be submitted on or before **September 28, 2026**.



INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

2026 Official Endorsement Form

This is to certify that the

Name of Board of Education

has taken official action to endorse its nomination for the North Carolina
School Boards Association's Innovation and Excellence in Public Education Award.

Board Chair's Signature

Print Board Chair's Name