



Excellence in Education Awards Selection Criteria

Educator

- Demonstrates a superior ability to foster excellence in education and contribute to the continuous improvement of student learning and the school environment.
- Displays relevancy and expertise in content area.
- Utilizes original and/or innovative instructional materials, methods, curriculum, or tools, such as interdisciplinary instruction, project-based learning, research-based programs, or technology to facilitate instruction.
- Maintains a record of superior teaching performance as evidenced by student learning gains, annual performance assessments, and recognition of work.
- Actively engages in targeted, collaborative and continuous professional development.
- Demonstrates leadership in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level, such as active membership in an advisory council, task force, or professional organization, or through involvement as a grade level or department chair.
- Participates in peer coaching or mentoring activities in direct support of teacher prep candidates.
- Engages in inquiry or research techniques in the classroom to improve the teaching and learning process.
- Engages parents/families in the learning process to enhance student achievement.
- Promotes literacy through the use of reading strategies in instruction and/or the implementation of projects intended to enhance student reading skills.
- Demonstrates a commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect conducive to effective teaching and learning.
- Evidences dedication to his/her community through active participation in service-oriented projects, volunteer work, etc.
- Demonstrates poise, eloquence and ability to withstand a taxing schedule.

Support

- Extends him/herself beyond basic required duties by displaying initiative and creativity.
- Contributes to the students, school and district he/she serves in the following manner:
 - Enhances student learning through participation in literacy-based activities.
 - Creates positive relationships with parents, students, coworkers and community members.
 - Makes schools safer, healthier and more attractive.
- Earns respect and admiration of colleagues and the community.
- Demonstrates exceptional skill and dedication on the job.
- Displays exemplary leadership abilities through active participation in school or district and community activities and/or by making decisions and delegating effectively and diplomatically.
- Utilizes in-service and/or training to consistently improve and develop skills.
- Demonstrates exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with students, families and community members, as well as collaboration with professionals.