



Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award Program *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Excellence in Arts Education Award*

2011-2012 State Level Award Guidelines for State Alliances

Purpose

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Distinction in Arts Education award program provides an outlet for expanding recognition of the role individual schools play in providing a creative learning environment for outstanding student achievement. The program provides a platform for the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) and individual State Alliances for Arts Education to highlight schools that have developed exemplary arts education programs.

How This Program Will Benefit Your State Alliance

This award program is designed to offer those with no award programs a template for launching one, or may complement a State Alliance's existing award programs. The awards are also designed to provide additional visibility for Alliances. Through these awards, Alliances can engage members in the selection process and involve them in recognizing multiple schools throughout the state. Alliances will be able to generate publicity on a state level for arts education as an issue, for themselves and for selected schools.

Key Outcomes of the Award Program

- To keep State Alliances in the center of the dialogue regarding arts education and school excellence
- To recognize schools and programs that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of education in their district
- To illustrate students' and schools' success stories
- To garner local, state and national media coverage for state award winners

Guidelines for Nomination

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Distinction in Arts Education award program identifies exemplary arts education programs in K-12 schools. The state level award, known as the ***John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Excellence in Arts Education Award***, is designed to honor individual schools at the state level exclusively. The national level award, including participation on the Millennium Stage, has been suspended.

To be considered for the state level award, a schools' arts education program should include two or more of the following characteristics:

- The school should **teach the four basic art forms (visual arts, music, theater, and dance) as specific disciplines as well as integrated** into other subject areas.
- The school should use **creative approaches to learning**, provide appropriate learning environments for teaching the arts, and recognize that the arts are critical and essential to education.



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- The school should provide opportunities for **parental involvement** in the educational lives of their children through hands-on, creative, arts-based activities.
- The school should provide students various opportunities for **learning about other cultures** through the arts.
- The arts program should provide **community connections** that build value and respect for the community by offering students diverse experiences beyond the classroom. Students leave the school to attend artistic events in the community, and community artists and artistic venues also provide programs at the school.

State Alliances are provided with certificates by the KCAAEN which should be used exclusively for the purpose of recognizing individual schools of excellence. School **districts** that exemplify these characteristics may be nominated for the KCAAEN and National School Boards Association Award. For more information this other award program, please visit www.kennedy-center.org/AllianceAwards.

Implementing the Award Program

State Alliances may implement the award program in the manner of their choosing. The Kennedy Center has provided sample forms that Alliances may use and modify to fit their needs. Some options for Alliances to consider include:

- Choosing a school without implementing an application process;
- Utilizing nomination guidelines from an Alliance's existing award program to implement this award at the state level;
- Developing a rotating selection process to identify schools in selected parts of the state over a period of years; or
- Issuing a call for nominations on their own or with partner organizations across the state, convening an awards panel to make final selections.

Below is a sample nomination process. State Alliances may modify to fit their needs.

1. Call for State Level Nominations –Alliances may launch a call for nominations for the state level award. Nomination information and forms may be distributed to Alliance members, district arts coordinators, arts department chairs, arts education leaders, curriculum coordinators, and school principals. A letter encouraging multiple nominations from the executive director or board chair may be included.
2. Identification of State Level Award Winners – Award winners may be identified from a pool of nominations submitted by teachers, principals, or other administrators familiar with the curriculum; from a letter of recommendation from parent groups, PTAs, honor societies or similar organizations, or school administrators; or from a decision made by the Alliance board of directors or executive director.



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Recognizing State Level Winners

State Alliances may wish to recognize state level winners with local media coverage, or a community event or activity.

Local Media Coverage

State Alliances may wish to create a press release to recognize state level winners. The press release should include all pertinent information regarding the winners and the award. If follow-up calls to the media are made, a designee should be available for interviews about the award program. Completed press releases – both print and electronic – should be sent to all local media. A copy may also be sent to the Kennedy Center.

Community Event/Activity

State Alliances are encouraged to plan activities to honor state level winners during the school year and to present the *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Excellence in Arts Education Award* certificate(s). Alliances may honor individual schools collectively or individually at any time throughout the year. If an event is planned, it should recognize and highlight the schools, arts program(s), and teachers. Some options to consider when planning an event include:

- Honoring selected schools at a school program, an appearance before the school board, a day at the legislature, or a community event;
- Inviting school board members, community and business leaders, legislators and other local elected officials, parents, parent organizations, and local news media to the event;
- Presenting the award in an entertaining and informative manner, including participation by students, teachers, and parents;
- Allowing student groups to demonstrate their arts education programs through exhibits or performances; and
- Introducing and recognizing any officials who attend and allowing brief remarks by participants, teachers, or students to enhance news coverage.

National Recognition via the Kennedy Center

State Alliances may provide the Kennedy Center with a listing of state level winners to be announced nationally via the Kennedy Center National Partnerships newsletter. Alliances must submit the school name, city and state, and summary description (150-300 words) of each state level winner's arts programs to Anthony Barbir at abbarbir@kennedy-center.org.