



Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network



National School Boards Association Award

Description of the Award

The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) are pleased to recognize a local school board for outstanding support of the arts in education. This national award has been presented annually since 1988 to a school board that has demonstrated support for and commitment to high-quality arts education in its school district, community, state or special jurisdiction. One school board per state comprises the maximum national pool of nominees. The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and National School Boards Association Award is presented at the annual national conference of the NSBA.

The winning district receives a plaque (presented at the National School Boards Association Annual Conference) and a cash award of \$10,000 to use for their arts education programs.

Review Criteria

Policy developments at both the state and federal levels have helped enhance the positioning of the arts as one of the core subject areas. Nominated school districts will have incorporated the arts into local educational reform efforts by including the consideration of the national standards for arts education, the adoption of local arts education standards, and/or the development of assessments in the arts. Nominated school boards must demonstrate the following:

- a significant contribution in support of arts programs/curricula in the district's schools. This should include exemplary programs of standards-based sequential, curriculum-based arts education and must **include curriculum offerings in all of the four arts disciplines, offered as part of the school day:**
 - visual arts
 - dance
 - music
 - theatre/drama
- evidence of district-wide policies and long range plans for arts education;
- collaboration with community cultural resources including academic/artistic programming with universities; art museums; symphonies; opera, dance and theatre companies, professional artists, etc.;
- promotion of the value and importance of arts education at the school, district, community, state or special jurisdiction levels;
- financial support of arts instruction in the school district;
- evidence of equitable access to instructional programs in the arts throughout the school district;
- appropriate administrative and instructional support, including ongoing professional development for classroom teachers and arts specialists, adequate instructional materials, facilities and administrative oversight;
- current membership in its NSBA Federation Member State School Boards Association and fulfillment of the responsibilities of effective school board members as prescribed by the NSBA in its Code of Ethics for School Board Members; and
- willingness to accept and participate in the publicizing of the award if it is bestowed.

Selection Process

A national awards panel that includes representatives from the NSBA and the Kennedy Center (on behalf of the KCAAEN) will review all state submissions and make its final selection from among the nominations submitted by the deadline. **Only complete applications will be considered.** The recipient of the award will be informed of selection prior to the 2010 NSBA Conference and Exposition. All other nominees will receive written notification of the selection results once the award has been publicly announced. Requests for return of nomination materials must be accompanied by a return, self-addressed package with adequate postage.

The nomination from each state must be received by the Kennedy Center no later than December 1, 2009.

Sending by FedEx or UPS:
KCAAEN and NSBA Award
The Education Department
The Kennedy Center
Washington, DC 20566-0001

Sending by mail:
KCAAEN and NSBA Award
The Education Department
P.O. Box 101510
Arlington, VA 22210

Nomination Requirements

Only **one nomination** per state will be considered by the KCAAEN/NSBA award review panel. This nomination may come from the State School Boards Association, the State Alliance or the State School Boards Association and the State Alliance jointly. Contact your State Alliance organization for nomination deadlines in your state. **In states where there is not an active State Alliance*, please contact your State School Boards Association for a letter of endorsement and forward the entry along with the endorsement letter directly to the Kennedy Center.**

A nomination must include the following materials:

- _____ Nomination form
- _____ A statement from the chairman or other officer of the school board in which a rationale is put forth for submitting the nomination
- _____ The school district superintendent’s supporting statement, which describes the school district’s arts education programs as evidence of achievement in arts education
- _____ A letter of support from two or more state or national professional arts education associations (i.e., state music educators – MENC, state visual art educators – NAEA, state dance educators – NDEO, state theatre educators – AATE, etc.)
- _____ Letters of support from two local citizens, one of whom should be a public official
- _____ Two letters of support from the nominating organizations:
 - 1) One letter from the State School Boards Association (in addition to the endorsement signature)
 - 2) One letter from the State Alliance for Arts Education (in addition to the endorsement signature)
- _____ A color photograph of the school board suitable for publicity purposes. You may submit an electronic photo to: acutler@kennedy-center.org. It must be received by December 1, 2009.
- _____ A copy of district arts curriculum and assessments, if they exist

* Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming

_____ **Evidence of Review Criteria:** Please answer the following questions, limiting your response to no more than eight pages. Any additional support materials are welcomed; however, please limit the support material pages to a total of ten.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. List the names of the school board members and the number of terms or years they have served. Please be sure to indicate the length of a single term.
2. Describe the community in which your school district is located including information on the setting (urban vs. rural) and socio-economic profile. Given the community setting and profile, describe any pertinent challenges the school district has faced in developing and/or maintaining a comprehensive arts education program.

DISTRICT DATA

3. How many students does the school district serve? Please provide a breakdown of the number of elementary, intermediate/middle, and secondary/high schools in your district.
4. How many full-time teachers are employed by the school district?
How many part-time teachers are employed by the school district?
Please indicate, **by arts discipline**, how many are full-time and part-time arts teachers.
How many visual and performing arts supervisors are employed by the school district?
Please describe the distribution of the arts teachers among the schools in the district.
5. Budget information:
What is the total annual budget for the school district?
What is the total instructional budget for the school district?
What percentage of the total annual budget is spent on arts teachers' salaries and instructional materials and supplies?
What percentage of the total instructional budget is spent on arts teachers' salaries and instructional materials and supplies?
How much is spent on arts teachers' salaries and instructional materials and supplies on a per pupil basis?
How is arts funding distributed among the schools?
Are there assistance programs for interested students who cannot afford arts fees such as instrument rental, laboratory fees, and supplies?

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

6. Provide a list of arts courses, the grade levels in which they are offered, and the average number of students enrolled. Please indicate by (*) if these arts courses are required.
7. Describe the distinguishing characteristics of any exemplary arts education (visual arts, dance, music, theater) programs that have been developed, and in what grade levels they are offered. Also indicate how many schools offer these programs.
8. Describe the visual and performing arts professional development opportunities that are offered to classroom teachers and arts specialists.
9. Describe any partnerships or collaborations the school district has developed with cultural institutions and community arts resources, including, but not limited to artist residencies, field trips, professional development opportunities for teachers, etc.
10. Describe expected student outcomes in the arts and your methods of assessing arts learning.

ROLE OF SCHOOL BOARD

11. Describe how the board has contributed to the development of arts education within the school district, including, but not limited to policy development, district long range/strategic plans for arts education, increasing commitment of general fund allocations, and cultivation of private or government grants. Please provide specific examples.

12. How have members of the school board advocated for the inclusion of the arts in national, state, and/or local education reform efforts involving arts education standards and assessments? Describe examples of any efforts that have been made by the school district to include the arts in the core curriculum. Please provide specific examples.