



Arizona Educational Foundation

# ***A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE™***

## **APPLICATION**

### **2011-2012**



**A+ Schools of Excellence**

Sponsored by:



Additional support provided by:



and





## **APPLICATION**

<b><i>Part I</i></b>	<b><i>Demographics</i></b>
<b><i>Part II</i></b>	<b><i>Vision/Mission</i></b>
<b><i>Part III</i></b>	<b><i>School Summary</i></b>
<b><i>Part IV</i></b>	<b><i>School Criteria</i></b>

***A. School Organization and Culture***

***B. Student Focus and Support***

***C. Professional Learning Communities***

***D. Active Teaching and Learning***

***E. Challenging Curriculum Standards***

***F. Leadership and Educational Vitality***

***G. School, Family, and Community Partnerships***

***H. Indicators of Success***

***I. Challenges***

## **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to participate in the A+ Schools of Excellence program, a school must:

1. Be a public, or public charter school (elementary or secondary) with some combination of grades PreK-12.
2. Have met the criteria as a 'Performing' or better school under Arizona Department of Education's AZ LEARNS in the year prior to applying for the award.
3. Be in its sixth full year of operation in its current (or similar) grade configuration when the application is submitted.
4. Have met all areas of federal and state compliance, and have no unresolved complaint issues specific to OCR violations or the Constitution's equal protection clause; or be part of a district in current violation of, or corrective actions in, said statutes.
5. Not have been recognized as an A+ school in the past three years. Previously recognized schools are eligible to reapply after their three-year status is complete.
6. Have a principal who has completed at least one full year as principal of the applicant school.

## **Application Instructions**

- Use the guidelines below each question in Part IV, Sections A through I in the "Comprehensive Guidelines" to address each question directly and concretely.
- Even though your school may in reality be exemplary, failure to adhere to the guidelines in each section could result in an unfavorable review.
- Review Eligibility Criteria specified above for compliance before completing the application.
- Page limits for each section must be strictly adhered to. Do not submit any additional graphs, charts, surveys, photographs, CDs, DVDs, addenda, etc. If you wish, you may provide these to the Evaluator Teams when they visit your school.
- Respond to all questions unless otherwise specified.
- Retype the bold parts only of each question in Part IV when answering each section; do not retype each bullet or non-bolded portions. For example: **A. School Organization and Culture; A1.** *type the bolded phrase only, not the prompts; A2.* *type the bolded words only, not the prompts, etc.*
- Your responses should address all prompts, but should not be limited by them.
- To support your responses, provide specific details, evidence, participation numbers, illustrative examples and other relevant data.
- Cross-reference answers when appropriate to avoid repetition.

## **Technical Specifications**

- Contact [bobbie@azedfoundation.org](mailto:bobbie@azedfoundation.org) if you would like to receive the application in MS Word format.
- Use Times New Roman (or similar) 12-point font throughout the entire application with the exception of reporting data in Part IV, Section H4. Be consistent with font style and size.
- Single space the application.
- Margins (top, bottom, and sides) must be no smaller than 1 (one) inch.
- Number the pages beginning with the Cover Sheet as Page 1.
- Submit five (5) (original application plus four) collated, stapled (not bound), single-sided copies on white paper to the address on the Cover Sheet. Do not include any other cover sheet

### **Submit Application to:**

**Arizona Educational Foundation 6155 E. Indian School Rd., Suite #106, Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

It must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2012** (Call 480-421-9376 with questions.)

# **2011-2012 A+ SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

Official School Name \_\_\_\_\_

District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Level (circle all grades that apply): Pre-K K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Previous A+ School?    \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No                    If Yes, Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of **Principal**: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Principal Phone or ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of **Superintendent**: \_\_\_\_\_

District Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Superintendent Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Email address \_\_\_\_\_

If your school is selected to receive a site visit, the review panel members will need directions to your school and will need to know dates that will present potential conflicts. Please complete the following:

Street Address City & Zip of school (if different from mailing address): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed travel directions indicating surface streets that lead to your school:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Calendar information:**

Best days of week, and times, to observe \_\_\_\_\_

Time school buses begin arriving in the morning: \_\_\_\_\_ Time classes begin: \_\_\_\_\_

Time classes dismiss: \_\_\_\_\_ Spring Break dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Standardized testing dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Early release, overnight or all-day field trips or other out-of-the-ordinary activities planned that might interfere with a site visit for the period **February 1 – April 13, 2012**; indicate grade level(s) affected:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURES:**

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my school is recognized as an A+ School of Excellence, the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Principal's signature**

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Superintendent's signature**

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**School Board Member's signature**

Printed name of School Board Member \_\_\_\_\_



## PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

### DISTRICT INFORMATION:

1. Total number of Pre K-12 students enrolled in the district: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of schools in the district:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Elementary                      \_\_\_\_\_ Middle/Junior High Schools  
\_\_\_\_\_ K-8                                      \_\_\_\_\_ High schools  
  
TOTAL SCHOOLS: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHOOL INFORMATION:

3. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Urban or large central city  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suburban  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suburban w/characteristics of urban areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ small city/town in rural area  
\_\_\_\_\_ rural
4. Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school? \_\_\_\_\_ (see Eligibility Requirements)  
If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in the school applying for A+ status:  
Pre-K \_\_\_\_\_                      5th \_\_\_\_\_                      9th \_\_\_\_\_  
1st \_\_\_\_\_                          6th \_\_\_\_\_                      10th \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd \_\_\_\_\_                          7th \_\_\_\_\_                      11th \_\_\_\_\_  
3rd \_\_\_\_\_                          8th \_\_\_\_\_                      12th \_\_\_\_\_  
4th \_\_\_\_\_  
  
TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Racial/ethnic composition of students in the school:  
\_\_\_\_\_ % American Indian or Alaska Native  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Black or African American  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Hispanic or Latino  
\_\_\_\_\_ % White  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Other; specify \_\_\_\_\_
7. Student turnover, or mobility rate, during the past year: \_\_\_\_\_ % (Calculate this rate by taking the total number of students who transferred to or from your school between October 1 and the end of the school year, divided by the total number of students in school as of October 1, and multiplying by 100.)

8. Limited English proficient students in the school:  
 Total number: \_\_\_\_\_ As a % of total student population: \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Total Number of languages represented: \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Specify languages: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals:  
 Total number: \_\_\_\_\_ As a % of total student population: \_\_\_\_\_  
*If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.*

10. Students receiving special education services:  
 Total number: \_\_\_\_\_ As a % of total student population: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Specific Learning Disability  
 \_\_\_\_\_ DD/Health Impaired/Autistic  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Severe (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if your school is the district site for any specific special education magnet program(s); if so, include student enrollment for program(s).

11. Indicate number of full-time and part-time staff members in each of the categories below:

**Number of Staff**

	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
<b>Administrators</b>	_____	_____
<b>Classroom teachers</b>	_____	_____
<b>Specials: Therapists</b>	_____	_____
<b>Resource teachers</b>	_____	_____
<b>Other specialists</b>	_____	_____
<b>Paraprofessionals</b>	_____	_____
<b>Other Support Staff</b>	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL FTE:</b>	_____	

**Describe any significant changes in the data reported in items 1-11 that have occurred during the past five years. Explain why the changes occurred and the impact on your school programs (use additional page if necessary).**

## **PART II: VISION/MISSION STATEMENTS**

Limit: one single-spaced page

Parts II and III may be combined for a total of no more than two (2) single-spaced pages  
(refer to “Comprehensive Guidelines” for prompts)

## **PART III: SCHOOL SUMMARY**

Limit: one single-spaced page

Parts II and III may be combined for a total of no more than two (2) single-spaced pages  
(refer to “Comprehensive Guidelines” for prompts)

## **PART IV: SCHOOL CRITERIA**

Limit: 25 single-spaced pages

(refer to “Comprehensive Guidelines” for prompts)

- A. School Organization and Culture*
- B. Student Focus and Support*
- C. Professional Learning Communities*
- D. Active Teaching and Learning*
- E. Challenging Curriculum Standards*
- F. Leadership and Educational Vitality*
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