



A+ Exemplary Programs Award APPLICATION 2011-2012

General Information: The Arizona Educational Foundation created the A+ Exemplary Programs Awards in 2004 to expand recognition of educational excellence in schools throughout Arizona. The Program's purpose is twofold:

- To identify and give public recognition to outstanding programs and practices in public schools in Arizona;
- To facilitate communication and sharing of outstanding programs and practices within and among schools based on common criteria related to success.

Overview: Applicant schools provide demographic information and describe in detail a current program or practice. These programs or practices represent exemplary, innovative and effective educational practices and are characterized by clearly defined objectives related to identified student needs, documentation that the program has met its objectives and the ability to be replicated by other schools. Programs eligible for recognition must have been in existence for at least three years; they are not limited to programs whose participants are exclusively students. For example, a program that serves and/or involves parents, staff or other community members might qualify for recognition as long as students are impacted. **Commercial programs from vendors are not eligible for consideration. Application deadline: 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 28, 2011.**

The selection committee is comprised of representatives from the education and business communities. The committee reads, evaluates and scores all applications and conducts site visits to selected schools in order to choose the winners. A school is limited to one application per academic year.

Schools whose programs are selected for the A+ Exemplary Programs Award will receive **\$100** and a plaque or certificate. Selected A+ Exemplary Programs serve as models for excellence that can be replicated by schools throughout the state.

For additional information, contact The Arizona Educational Foundation 480-421-9376

A+ Exemplary Programs Awards are sponsored by:



**THE ARIZONA
REPUBLIC**
azcentral.com



Additional support is provided by the Arizona Educational Foundation's "Supporting Partners:"

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION and BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ARIZONA

Application Instructions

- Even though your program or practice may be exemplary in reality, failure to adhere to the **guidelines** in each section could result in an unfavorable review.
 - Review **eligibility criteria** for compliance before completing the application.
 - Observe **page limits** denoted in Parts II and III of the application and **Technical Specifications** (below) for each section.
 - Respond to **all questions** unless otherwise specified.
 - Retype the **bold part only** of each question in Part III when answering each section (do not retype non-bolded portions).
 - **Do not submit any additional graphs, charts, surveys, photographs, CDs, etc.**
 - To support your responses, provide **specific details and evidence** including especially illustrative examples and relevant data.
 - **Cross-reference** answers when appropriate to avoid repetition.
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Technical Specifications

- Use Times New Roman (or similar) 12-point font for the entire application with the exception of reporting data in Part III, Section F.
 - Single space 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 (which will serve as the cover sheet). Do not include any other cover sheet.
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Evaluation Criteria

For a program to receive a site visit, it must be deemed a potential model for other schools to replicate and adapt to their own population. The A+ Review Panel rates responses to each of Sections A-F of Part III as follows: “exemplary,” “adequate,” or “inadequate.” At least 4 of the 7 sections in Part III must be rated “exemplary.” If any section is rated as “inadequate” the program is ineligible for the award.

Prompts under each section title do not necessarily serve as a comprehensive checklist, but contain examples of what may constitute an “exemplary” response. Throughout Part III, in order for your responses to receive an “exemplary” rating, you must provide substantive evidence that supports statements and claims made in the application. Evidence should include but not be limited to:

- Rich examples that illustrate your school’s unique ability to serve its community
- Evidence that demonstrates the program goes above and beyond the expected norm for schools
- Supporting quantitative and anecdotal data
- Participation rates in programs

Eligible programs are not necessarily limited to programs that include student participants, although the program must impact students. The A+ Exemplary Programs Review Panel looks for indications of creative problem solving and/or a willingness of program leaders to think outside the box in meeting program participants’ unique needs.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the A+ Exemplary Program award, a program must have been in operation for **three (3)** full years.

To be eligible to participate a school must:

1. Be a **public school** with some combination of grades Pre K-12. **Note: there are no applicable requirements pertaining to age of school.**
2. Have met the criteria as a “Performing” (or better) school under AZ LEARNS
3. Not be refusing the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information for investigating a civil rights complaint or conducting a district wide compliance review.
4. Not have received a letter of findings from OCR to the school’s district concluding that the nominating school violated one or more of the civil rights statutes, or there is a district wide violation possibly affecting the school that is submitting an application and not have a pending suit against the school’s district from the U.S. Department of Justice alleging the school or district has violated one or more civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
5. Have met all areas of state compliance and have no unresolved complaint issues by January 1, 2012.

2011-2012 Timeline

Application Deadline: **Monday, November 28, 2011** (must be received in AEF office before 5:00 p.m. on deadline date)

Schools will be notified if selected for site visit by: **December 19, 2011**

Site Visits conducted: **January 9, 2012 – February 10, 2012**

A+ Exemplary Programs Announced: **February 17, 2012**

**2011-2012 Arizona Educational Foundation A+ Exemplary Programs
COVER SHEET**

A+ Exemplary Program Name: _____

Name of Principal _____

Official School Name _____

School Mailing Address _____ Tel. (____) _____ ext. _____

_____ Email Address _____

City

Zip

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 program is recognized as an A+ Exemplary Program, the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

_____ Date _____
(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent _____

District Name _____ Tel. (____) _____

District Mailing _____

_____ City

_____ Zip

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)

Name of School Board Member _____

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)

Submit application by 5:00 p.m., on November 28, 2011 to:

**Arizona Educational Foundation
6155 E. Indian School Rd., Suite 100 Room #106
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

Additional School Information

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:

School Name	Street Address	City & Zip
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Principal's Name	Phone	Email
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Detailed travel directions indicating surface streets that lead to your school:

Calendar information:

Best day of week and time to observe your **A+ Exemplary Program or Practice**:

Time school buses begin arriving in the morning: _____

Time classes begin: _____

Time classes dismiss: _____

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 January 9 – February 10, 2012; indicate grade level(s) affected:

PART I – DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

NAME OF YOUR A+ EXEMPLARY PROGRAM: _____

DISTRICT INFORMATION

1. Total number of students (pre K-12) enrolled in the district: _____
2. Number of schools in the district: _____ Elementary schools _____ Middle schools
 _____ Junior high schools _____ High schools
 _____ **TOTAL**

SCHOOL INFORMATION

3. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:
- [] Urban or large central city [] Suburban
[] Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area
[] Small city or town in a rural area [] Rural
4. _____ Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.
_____ 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 applying school building:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Pre-K _____ | 5 th _____ | 10 th _____ |
| 1 st _____ | 6 th _____ | 11 th _____ |
| 2 nd _____ | 7 th _____ | 12 th _____ |
| 3 rd _____ | 8 th _____ | |
| 4 th _____ | 9 th _____ | TOTAL: _____ |
6. 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 the school as of October 1, and multiplying by 100.)
7. Limited English proficient students in the school: _____% _____ Total Number
Number of languages represented: _____ Specify languages: _____
8. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: _____% _____ Total Number
- 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.
9. Students receiving special education services: _____% _____ Number Served

Indicate below the number of students:

_____ Specific Learning Disability
_____ All others

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

A+ Exemplary Program Demographics:

Number of students/participants served _____

Grade Level(s) _____

Type of students/participants served, i.e. at-risk, special education etc.

Personnel Involved:

PART II – VISION/MISSION STATEMENT (no more than one-half page, single spaced)

Successful organizations have a clearly articulated and commonly understood vision and mission. Provide a brief statement of your school’s vision, mission and/or philosophy and state the school’s goals that are reflected by your program or practice.

PART III – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(no more than five (5) single-spaced pages)

A. Summary

Provide the name of your program/practice and a brief, coherent snapshot of it. Specify its goals, objectives and expected outcomes. Provide a description of the decision-making process, including applicable data that led to the inception of your program. Describe the nature of the community and students served. Briefly describe the program's strengths and accomplishments focusing on what makes your program unique, exemplary and/or creative and worthy of recognition as an A+ Exemplary Program or Practice. Provide evidence of the sustainability of the program or practice.

B. Student Focus and Support

Describe your program's learner population. Specify their academic and non-academic needs as they relate to your program and how you identify and meet those needs. If your program deals primarily with adults, describe how it supports the student population. Provide evidence that there are high expectations for staff and participants and that the program strives for excellence and equity. Describe how the program relates to your school's vision, mission and goals. If applicable, describe how students with disabilities and/or special needs are included.

C. Challenging Standards and Curriculum

Describe the program's curriculum and specify how it aligns with state standards (if applicable). Describe your process for continuous program renewal, monitoring, evaluation and improvement; tell who is involved in the process. Provide evidence that the program has some unique or unusually effective features.

D. Professional Community

Tell how your program builds your professional community and how it uses your professional community to support it. Describe how teachers, non-teaching staff members and volunteers are provided with opportunities to collaborate, plan activities and participate in the program.

E. Leadership and Educational Vitality

Describe how the school leadership is involved in, supports and impacts your program.

F. Indicators of Success

Document the assessment measures used to determine the extent to which the program or practice has been successful. Provide relevant data and include a brief description of these assessments so someone not familiar with them can interpret the results. If the program has received awards or recognition, provide a list and description of them; indicate the year in which each was received.

G. Replication

Describe how the program or practice might be replicated in another classroom, school and/or district.