



## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SCHOOLS SEEKING THE A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**

To be considered for the A+ School of Excellence™ Award, the following criteria must be met:

- The school must be an Arizona state-accredited public school or school operating under the Bureau of Indian Education with some combination of grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- School must be rated by the Arizona Department of Education's most recent available ratings as an "A" or "B" school and must demonstrate high student academic achievement or growth over time for all students through other assessments.
- The school must be in at least its fifth full year of operation in its current (or similar) grade configuration when the application is submitted. Schools who are unsure about this requirement may contact AEF to discuss.
- The school's principal must have completed at least **TWO consecutive full years** as leader of the applicant school when the application is submitted.
  - *Exceptions:* An exception may occur for schools who are renewing for a *consecutive* A+ Award if the following conditions are met: A renewal school may have a principal who has completed one full year at the time of application if the principal was already an administrative member at the school when the most recent A+ Award was granted AND was a member of the A+ application writing team for the most recent Award.

***Schools with questions about this requirement or with extenuating circumstances are encouraged to contact AEF to discuss.***

- The school or school district is not refusing Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district-wide compliance review.
- The OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated school or the district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan from the district to remedy the violation.
- The US Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the nominated school or the school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
- Current A+ School of Excellence schools may not re-apply before the end of their current application cycle. Please reference the A+ School of Excellence timelines found at: [www.azedfoundation.org/a-schools](http://www.azedfoundation.org/a-schools)