



2010 Eligibility Criteria for the Excellence in Urban Education Award

NCUST will consider applications for public schools or public charter schools that meet the following criteria:

- 1. Non-Selective Admissions:** Students are not required to meet any academic criteria in order to attain or retain enrollment.
- 2. Urban Location:** The school is located in a city with a population of at least 50,000 people.
- 3. Low-Income Student Population:** For elementary schools, at least 60 percent of the school's students must qualify for the federal free- or reduced-price lunch program or the state education agency's low-income classification. For middle schools (or schools including grades as high as 7 or 8), at least 50 percent of the school's students must meet the same low-income criteria. For high schools, at least 40 percent of the school's students must meet the same low-income criteria.
- 4. Adequate Yearly Progress:** The school achieved adequate yearly progress in both of the past two school years.
- 5. High Attendance Rates:** Student attendance rates were at least 92 percent in both of the past two school years.
- 6. High Proficiency Rates:** A high percentage of students demonstrated proficiency on state assessments of English Language Arts, reading, mathematics, writing, science, or social studies in both of the past two school years. Choose **A** or **B**.
 - A.** The school's composite performance index score for each of the last two school years was higher than the state average and among the top ten percent of schools serving comparable populations of students.
 - Or B.** in at least two grade level subject assessments (e.g., 6th grade reading and 7th grade mathematics), the percentage of students proficient exceeded the state average, and in at least two grade level subject assessments, the percentage of students proficient was among the top 10 percent of schools serving comparable populations of students.
- 7. Small Achievement Gaps:** The most recent year state assessment performances of demographic groups served at the school showed a small or no achievement gap. Choose **A** or **B**.
 - A.** The composite performance index for the lowest performing racial/ethnic group was at least 85 percent of the performance index for the highest performing racial/ethnic group, and the performance index for the lowest performing demographic group (including students

meeting low-income criteria, English learners, and students with disabilities) was at least 75 percent of the performance index for all students. (Note: NCUST will use this criterion in considering demographic groups that include 50 or more students at the school.)

Or B. In two subject area assessments, the gap between the highest and lowest performing racial/ethnic groups was less than 15 percentage points, and in two subject area assessments, the gap between the highest and lowest performing demographic groups (including students meeting low-income criteria, English learners and students with disabilities) was less than 25 percentage points. (Note: NCUST will use this criterion in considering demographic groups that include 50 or more students at the school.)

- 8. High Graduation Rate:** For schools that serve 12th grade, the latest four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (as defined by the U.S. Department of Education) is at least 70 percent for each major demographic group of students.
- 9. Proportionate Enrollment in Special Programs:** The enrollment of students of different racial/ethnic groups in special education and gifted/talented education is proportionate to the overall racial/ethnic composition of the school.

The demographic group with the highest percentage of students receiving special education is not more than 1.5 times as likely to receive special education services as is typical for the entire school, and

The demographic group with the lowest percentage of students participating in the gifted/talented education program cannot be less than .75 times as likely to receive gifted/talented education services as is typical for the entire school. (Note: NCUST will use these criteria in considering demographic groups that include 50 or more students at the school.)

- 10. Few Suspensions/Expulsions:** For every demographic group of students, the total number of days students were out of school because of suspensions or expulsions was less than one day per student enrolled.
- 11. Other Evidence of Strength:** There is other strong evidence of academic and/or extra-curricular excellence such as high percentages of students passing advanced placement examinations, high percentages of students completing rigorous courses of study, or awards for school-wide excellence in academic disciplines, art, music, drama, career and technical education, or physical education.

NCUST Excellence in Urban Education Award Nomination Application

How Will the Application Process Work?

The application includes five important parts: a cover page, a certification page, the school demographic profile, data required to determine eligibility, and additional evidence of excellence. The Cover Page provides essential information that will enable NCUST to contact appropriate persons throughout the application process.

The Certification Page requires signatures that assure all information submitted in the application is true and accurate. The Demographic Profile contains information that is helpful to NCUST in understanding more about the applicant school; however, these data are not used to determine eligibility for the Excellence in Urban Education Award. The "Data Required to Determine Eligibility" section includes 11 items that will help determine if a school is eligible to be considered for an Excellence in Urban Education Award. The "Additional Evidence of Excellence" section will be used as a supplement to the required data section to help identify award finalists.

NCUST Honor Roll

All applicant schools that meet the eligibility criteria in the required data section (items 1-11) will be placed on NCUST's School Honor Roll for 2009-2010. These schools will also receive an Honor Roll Certificate indicating that they met the Center's rigorous eligibility criteria. Profiles of all Honor Roll Schools will be placed on the NCUST website.

Finalist Selection

NCUST will compare the applications of schools that meet all eligibility criteria to identify those with the strongest data indicating high levels of achievement for all students served. NCUST will compare responses in the required data section and in the additional evidence of excellence section (items 12 through 14). Approximately 20 schools will be identified as finalists for the award.

Site Visits

An NCUST team will visit all finalist schools. Visits will be structured to validate the data provided in the application, acquire additional evidence of school excellence, and learn about the processes and practices that contributed to the school's success. Prior to the NCUST site visit, finalists must commit to presenting a session at the NCUST symposium on May 6th or 7th, 2010 (at NCUST's expense), if invited to do so.

Award Winner

Approximately 10 schools will be awarded as winners of the Excellence in Urban Education Award for 2010. The winners will be recognized in Long Beach, CA at the NCUST Symposium on May 6th and 7th, 2010. Each winner will receive a check for \$1,000, a large banner, and a framed certificate acknowledging the school's distinction. Winners will be expected to present sessions at the NCUST Symposium, as educators from across the nation seek to learn about the winners' impressive accomplishments.

Questions?

If you have questions about the application or the application process, please e-mail your questions to ncust@mail.sdsu.edu. You might also choose to call 619-594-7905. Please note that applications must be received by NCUST by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 16, 2009 in order to ensure consideration. Submission information is listed on the cover page of the application.