

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL OF URBAN BOARDS OF EDUCATION



2011

CUBE ANNUAL AWARD FOR URBAN SCHOOL BOARD EXCELLENCE

Board governance and leadership guide urban school districts around the country every day. As difficult decisions are made at every level in a school system, the leadership team is at the forefront of tough decisions regarding what is best for its students. At the core of CUBE's Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence is the leadership team's ability to govern and keep the focus on urban student achievement.

CUBE's focus is to showcase excellence in school board governance every year by presenting the Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence. Award winners share their ideas and promote effective techniques at CUBE conferences and through CUBE publications. These districts serve as a resource for other CUBE districts, sharing best practices to help all urban districts improve.

We encourage all CUBE members to apply—districts are judged on a variety of measures, but those who show progress, innovation, and are eager to demonstrate their knowledge are especially welcome. As CUBE districts aim for perfection, we hope to showcase and learn from their progression.

The eighth CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence will be presented at the 2011 CUBE Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 8. We hope you will join us.

THE AWARD

One CUBE member district applicant will be selected for its excellence in governance and awarded the CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence at the 2011 CUBE Annual Conference. The judging panel may determine that additional CUBE member district applicants should be recognized for their exemplary governance work.

These districts will receive:

- recognition in CUBE programming as an exemplary urban school board;
- national and local media promotion;
- recognition in a special issue of CUBE's advocacy newsletter, the Urban Advocate, and other national NSBA publications;
- an assessment of your district's progress in the four core areas: Excellence in School Board Governance, Building Civic Capacity, Closing the Gap, and Demonstrating Success of Academic Excellence.



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SERVING AMERICA'S URBAN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

AWARD CRITERIA AND INFORMATION



- ❑ Each applicant district must complete the application form and provide a written submission comprised of approximately 1500 words (this is a guide only – the aim is to ensure your entry is clear and concise) and substantively address why the member district should be selected for the CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence, noting the demonstration of excellence in the four core areas of urban school board governance. The district selected must show a direct connection between a school board action/activity and the demonstrated excellence in the four core areas. Please provide data to support your narrative and connect board leadership to student achievement.
- ❑ In addition to the written submission and the application form, supportive materials (example: board/district policies, mission/vision statement, evidence of governance reform/improvements, other national awards/recognition, student achievement data, media accounts, board self evaluation tool, board agendas, outcomes of community engagement projects, etc.) also should be provided, including a **five-year district profile**. Data should include measures such as test scores AYP status, drop-out rates, minority college attendance rates, and demographics in Advanced Placement /IB classes in order to best demonstrate success in criteria three and four.
- ❑ Each applicant district must be a member in good standing of the National School Boards Association’s Council of Urban Boards of Education.
- ❑ The judging panel will review and select one CUBE member district for its excellence in governance. The judging panel may determine that additional CUBE member district applicants should be recognized for their exemplary governance work. One or more districts may be selected – the number will be exclusively determined by the judging panel and based on the quality of the CUBE member district application.
- ❑ The judging panel reserves the right to seek additional evidence from other sources such as phone interviews with key personnel, a local and national media scan, and information search. This evidence will serve as supplemental support for the district’s application.
- ❑ The screening and selection process will be managed exclusively by NSBA under the auspices of its CUBE program.

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APPLICATION FORM

School District Name _____

District Address _____

Board President _____

Superintendent _____

Staff Contact Name _____

Staff Contact Title _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Along with the completed application form, please provide a written submission comprised of approximately 1500 words, supporting materials, and a profile of your school district. Please note: Supporting materials will not be considered in lieu of a strong application. Please call 703-838-6722 or email cubestaff@nsba.org if you have any questions.

INSTRUCTIONS

Mail this application form along with all materials to:

Manager of Membership Services, CUBE
National School Boards Association
1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Deadline: May 4, 2011

**By submitting this application,
your district is committing to
send members of your governance
team to the 2011 CUBE Annual
Conference in New Orleans,
Louisiana, if chosen as the winner
or a finalist.**

THE FOUR CORE AREAS OF URBAN SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

Criteria 1 and 2 must be demonstrated by all applicants – supporting the belief that excellence in school board governance and building civic capacity are essential for success:

1. EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

School boards are:

- Elected or appointed as the governing body to set policy and establish district wide goals for student achievement
- Asked to hire and direct the superintendent
- Held accountable to the community who elected them.
- Setting and following a vision for its governance role.

Your district application must address your success related to board performance, and describe how your governance team demonstrates strong leadership.

2. BUILDING CIVIC CAPACITY

- Has community support increased?
- Is the community an ally in advocating for your district?
- Do you provide excellence and equity in educating the public school children of your community?
- What specific actions has your board implemented to achieve success?

The actions you take as a board to engage discussion, involve members of the community in the decision making processes, and make use of the assets available to you in your community demonstrate your ability to bring people together. **Your district application must address your board's success related to engaging the community.**

Applicants must be able to show the correlation between board work and student success. Please include narrative information that describes school board efforts as well as supporting materials that best express student performance, including, but not limited to a five year district profile, board meeting agendas, district publications, self-evaluation materials, and examples of efforts made to provide equity while closing the gap of economic disparity.

3. CLOSING THE GAP - EQUITY IN EDUCATION

- What strategies have we implemented in our district to narrow the achievement gap for isolated groups of students who have historically had limited access to the full range of educational opportunities or depth of challenging curriculum?
- When we analyze data according to race, ethnicity, poverty, language acquisition and special needs, do achievement disparities negatively impact educational outcomes for children in these groups on a consistent basis?

Your district must address your board's success related to closing or narrowing the achievement gap for special needs as well as racially, economically, and linguistically challenged students.

4. DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Have we improved academically as evidenced by key achievement indicators?
- What was the direct role of the board in this improvement?
- In addition to performance on standardized tests, are there other indicators of student achievement?

It is the fundamental role of local school boards to provide the leadership necessary to create a learning environment that is conducive to student achievement at the highest levels.

Your district application must address your board's success related to the district's overall academic success.

In addition to a narrative explanation of how board work and policy have affected student achievement, please provide a five-year district profile as support. Data should include measures such as test scores, AYP status, drop-out rates, minority college attendance rates, and demographics in Advanced Placement classes in order to best demonstrate success in criteria three and four.

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP? PARTICIPATE IN A WEBINAR FOR ASSISTANCE...

March 24—3 PM EST

...or contact us with questions anytime at 703-838-6722 or cubestaff@nsba.org

A recording of the webinar and FAQ will be available on the CUBE website: www.nsba.org/cube.

Don't forget, applications are due on May 4, 2011.