



Arizona Educational Foundation

A+ School of Excellence™ Application Guide 2025-2026 School Year

**Next A+ application deadline is August 29, 2025. Applications are due online by 5:00pm
MST.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A+ School of Excellence Program	1
A+ Process	2
Eligibility Criteria	2
Deadline, Timeline, and Award Terms	3
Application Writing Tips	4
Technical Specifications	6
Online Application Access	6
Contact Us	6
Application Questions	7

A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The A+ School of Excellence™ program began in 1983 as a way to identify, celebrate, and recognize educational excellence in schools throughout Arizona. In addition to showcasing exceptional public schools, the A+ program provides school teams with an outstanding comprehensive framework that serves as a basis for school self-assessment and planning. The A+ School of Excellence® Award is a powerful energizer for increasing public confidence in recognized schools, often resulting in greater parent and community involvement and even serves as an economic driver for some communities. A+ Schools are celebrated and recognized as exceptional. Earning the highly prestigious and coveted A+ designation spotlights the positive successes happening in public schools every day.

"Becoming an A+ School was one of the best strategic planning experiences I had with my staff as a principal."

- *Brett Bonner, Asst. Superintendent for Educational Services, Sahuarita Unified School District*

Schools that ultimately earn the A+ School of Excellence® designation consistently share the following traits:

- Model quality and equity
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence
- Respond successfully to the changing environment of education
- Cultivate learning-centered, safe school environments
- Encourage innovative instruction by supporting teachers
- Actively address the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs
- Demonstrate superior ability to go above and beyond the norm in providing services to children, families, and the local community

A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE PROCESS

To be considered for the A+ School of Excellence Award, schools begin by submitting an online written application. Application submissions are reviewed by a panel of experienced judges comprised primarily of A+ School principals along with superintendents and other district administrators. Panels may also include teachers from A+ Schools, higher education personnel, and other Pre-K-12 professionals. *Applications should center around what makes your school exemplary.*

- Step 1: Schools submit a written application.
- Step 2: Written applications are reviewed by panel.
- Step 3: If the written application is successful, schools are granted a site visit. Schools who do not receive a site visit are provided with written feedback and encouraged to incorporate that feedback in submitting a new application for the next cycle.
- Step 4: Schools receiving site visits are visited by a team of Judges who vet the programs and activities described in the written application. Site visits are a day and a half.
- Step 5: Schools who have successful site visits are granted the A+ Award. Schools who are unsuccessful are encouraged to reapply and are provided with written feedback and encouraged to incorporate that feedback in submitting a new application for the next cycle.

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

DEADLINE, TIMELINE, AND AWARD TERMS

APPLICATION DEADLINE for the 2025-2026 school year: August 29, 2025. Applications are due by 5:00pm MST. No exceptions. Applications submitted after 5:00pm MST will be disqualified. *Plan ahead!*

Adjudication Timeline:

August 29, 2025: Application deadline

Late September 2025: Applications are reviewed by panels of A+ judges

October 2025: Schools are notified if a site visit will be conducted

November 2025 - Mid-February 2026: Site visits are conducted

Mid-February 2026: A+ School of Excellence™ winners are announced/Award ceremonies occur

Schools selected for the award receive \$500 and a banner for display on campus. A school retains the A+ designation for four years as long as they remain an “A” or “B” school and continue to exhibit the exceptional qualities that are the hallmark of A+ Schools. Schools that earn the award agree to comply with AEF™ authorized logo and name usage requirements related to the A+ School of Excellence™ designation.

LENGTH OF AWARD TERM:

A school retains the A+ designation for four years as long as they remain an “A” or “B” school and continue to exhibit the exceptional qualities that are the hallmark of A+ Schools. Schools renewing their A+ designation will reapply at the beginning of their fourth year. NOTE: A “renewal school” is a school applying for another consecutive term as an A+ school. *Schools with a lapse in years are not considered renewals.*

Renewal Schools Timeline:

For schools submitting applications to renew their A+ status, the following applies:

- 2021 Awarded Schools reapply August 31st, 2025 (notified Spring 2026)
- 2022 Awarded Schools reapply August 31st, 2026 (notified Spring 2027)
- 2023 Awarded Schools reapply August 31st, 2027 (notified Spring 2028)
- 2024 Awarded Schools reapply August 31st, 2028 (notified Spring 2029)

Non-Renewal and new Schools Timeline:

A school earning the A+ award in SPRING 2025 will have the award as follows:

- August 2025-August 2026 – YEAR ONE
- August 2026-August 2027 – YEAR TWO
- August 2027-August 2028 – YEAR THREE.
- August 2028-August 2029 – YEAR FOUR. Renewal schools may have their new application submitted in Fall 2029 and a site visit (if granted) during Winter/Spring of their Year Four. Renewals will be awarded in the Spring semester of your school’s FOURTH year.

APPLICATION WRITING TIPS

Schools who earn the A+ School of Excellence Award designation go above and beyond the everyday practices that all schools are expected to implement. Applications should center around what makes your school exemplary. As the application is being compiled, consider:

What makes your school unique from other schools in your district or community?

- Tip 1: Applying for A+ should be an inclusive process involving a variety of perspectives and voices from different stakeholder groups. The application should not be driven by a small group of individuals or be solely principal-written.
- Tip 2: Designate your A+ application writing team. Consider including building administrators in addition to the principal; teachers; librarians and guidance counsellors; caregivers; and any other stakeholders whose voices may add value to your application.
- Tip 3: Start early! Most school leaders consider the A+ application process one of the best strategic planning experiences their school undertakes. This is a time to reflect what you do well and how your school shines. Allow ample time for the writing team to explore, discuss, compile, and fine-tune.
- Tip 4: Upload the Word version of the A+ application to Google Docs or another document-sharing site and allow stakeholder groups to research and write in small teams initially. Set deadlines for when sections should be completed, shared, and read by the rest of the team to allow time for further research and revision.
- Tip 5: Work collaboratively throughout the entire process but, when you think you are ready to submit, designate one final writer to unite each section of application into one unified story. The final application should be cohesive in vision, thought, and voice. It is evident to Judges when an application has been wordsmithed and written by one final voice.
- Tip 6: Be specific and support the claims made in your application with rich, relevant, and meaningful data and evidence. Keep the following in mind when preparing and writing your application:
- The prompts throughout the application are intended as useful tools for self-assessment, strategic planning, ongoing reflection, and involvement of all relevant stakeholders in a common school improvement process.
 - It is important for the school's principal to play an active role in the self-evaluation process and application writing to ensure that the entire school has been thoroughly assessed and analyzed. Not doing so usually results in a weak application that lacks the depth that true self-assessment and analysis provide.
 - The A+ School of Excellence program examines schools in a comprehensive manner: Questions and prompts are intended to address important internal and external aspects of school operations, be broad enough to suit diverse school contexts, and accommodate new or changing goals and strategies within any particular school.
- Tip 7: Highlight the excellent and unique programs and practices that set your school apart from other schools and point to your successes. **Do not focus on examples of activities, strategies or programs that are expected or common among schools.** For example, having a safe campus is not unique. Safety is a concern that all schools address. When asked to highlight a unique curriculum program, highlight something that may not be commonplace in many schools or highlight how you might have adapted a widespread program but are implementing it in a unique or unexpected way. For example, Project-Based Learning is a very commonly used and popular curriculum among schools. While it may be worth mentioning, making this a focal point of the application would not set the school apart, unless your school was implementing it in a truly unique way.
- Tip 8: Shy away from sterile writing. Reviewers want to hear your story. Give your application heart and soul. Paint a picture of your school, your community, your students, etc. This is an opportunity to showcase your school's uniqueness. Discuss your data in a human-centered way. Your application should make reviewers want to visit your school.
- Tip 9: Word limits are designated for each question. Applicants are strongly advised to fully utilize word limits assigned to each section of the application. Underutilization of word

limits might not provide sufficient evidence that a school is going above and beyond basic requirements and expectations.

Tip 10: Regardless of how many times your school has earned A+ or how great your school's test scores are, do not make the assumption that your school is "entitled" to the award. A+ Schools are more than test scores; they are complete and wholistic ecosystems where all aspects of a school community demonstrate excellence. It is the school's responsibility to ensure their application responses thoroughly satisfy the information requested. For renewal schools, "copying and pasting" responses from a previous application is highly discouraged.

EXAMPLES OF EVIDENCE SCHOOLS MAY WISH TO INCLUDE:

Academic and non-academic activities, programs, and practices; school-wide function

- Purpose, goals, outcomes as related to vision, mission, values, strategic plan, and goals
- Evidence of effectiveness and success as related to vision, mission, values, strategic plan, and goals
- Participation rates (raw numbers or percentages) compared to class size, grade level, overall student population, etc. disaggregated by grade levels, gender, other
- Well-documented, continuous, ongoing and sustainable assessment and improvement
- Qualitative feedback including satisfaction surveys, participant feedback, anecdotes, engagement surveys

Awards/Honors

- Date received, by whom, and community members affected
- Significance and relevance

Meetings

- Purpose of groups/committees as related to vision, mission, values, strategic plan, and goals
- Make-up of groups/committees and how that is determined
- Meeting frequency and attendance
- What transpired; outcomes

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- The A+ application must be submitted online by the specified deadline. Paper copies will be disqualified.
- Applications are compatible with both PC and MAC operating systems.
- The online application has a "save and continue later" option. If you choose to finish later, the principal will receive an email with a link that can be used to access the application at a later date. ***Note: This email often gets diverted to school spam or junk folders. Please check these folders before contacting AEF.***
- It is the responsibility of the applicant school to track and comply with word counts for each section of the application; note that the system will NOT allow submissions to exceed the word limit stated under each question.
- Responses must be in narrative format. The online formatting used to complete and submit an application does NOT allow for pictures, graphs, charts, bullet points, bolding, italics, etc.
- Spellcheck before you submit.
- Proofread before you submit.
- All applications are time-stamped upon submission. Any entry received at the stated time and date deadline will NOT be accepted.
- **If using Google Docs, do not try to copy and paste from Google Docs directly into the application as it will impact spacing and text formatting. You must download the Google Doc as a Word document and copy and paste from that.**

ONLINE APPLICATION

The link to the official online application may be obtained on the AEF website at: <https://www.azedfoundation.org/a-schools>. While schools are encouraged to use the Word version of the application for collaboration and preparation, only the online application will be accepted.

ARIZONA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CONTACTS

Brett K. Bonner, Director of Professional Development, Dean of AEF Academy

aplus@azedfoundation.org

(480) 421-9376 (o)

(520) 850-0593 (c)

PRINTABLE APPLICATION

(For preparation and collaboration only. To be eligible, schools must submit the online application.)

Section 1: School Overview

1) APID

If you know your school's APID (A+ ID number) please enter it here. If you do not, please leave this blank.

2) Official School Name *

School's full name as listed by the Arizona Department of Education.

2a) School Website Address *

School's official school website address.

3) District Name *

Full district name as listed by the Arizona Department of Education.

3a) Picture of the School *

Upload a jpg file of the front of the school.

4) Grade Levels (Click all grades that apply) *

- Pre-K
- 2
- 5
- 8
- 11

- K
- 3
- 6
- 9
- 12

- 1
- 4
- 7
- 10

5) Has your school previously earned the A+ School of Excellence Award? *

- Yes
- No

6) Main School Phone *

7) School Physical Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

7b) What county is your school located in? *

7c) Is the school's mailing address the same as the physical address? *

- Yes
- No

8) Principal's Name: *

Prefix

First Name

Last Name

9) Principal's Direct Email Address: *

example@example.com

9b) Principal's Direct School Phone Number: *

10) Principal's Cell Phone Number: (We will call the school first, but need the cell phone number if we are unable to reach you.)*

11) Number of years principal has been in their position at the school: *

See eligibility requirements for questions.

12) Name of District Superintendent: *

Prefix First Name Last Name

13) Representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups (i.e. administrators, teachers, other school staff, students, caregivers, and community representatives) must be involved in the preparation of the application. List the individuals actively involved in preparation. List primary authors first.

Author	First Name	Last Name	Position/Title
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

School Site Visit Dates

If your school is granted a site visit, this information will be sent directly to the lead judge of the team who will visit your school. The lead judge will work directly with your school administration to schedule your visit dates.

2025-2026 Site Visits: Between November 14, 2025 and February 6, 2026.

Site Visit Length: Site visits occur over two consecutive days.

14) Given your school's 2025-2026 calendar, what dates would be ideal to host an A+ site visit? *

20) Total number of students enrolled in the school.

21) Racial/ethnic composition of students in the school.

Percent

Black or African American

Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander Hispanic or

Latino

American Indian or Alaska Native

White

Other

22) Pick the category that best describes the area where the school is located. *

- Urban, large central city
- Suburban with characteristics of urban areas
- Suburban
- Small city/town in rural area
- Rural

23) 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.

24) Limited English proficient students in the school.

	#
Total number of students.	<input type="text"/>
Total percentage of the student population. Total	<input type="text"/>
number of languages represented.	<input type="text"/>

24b) Specify languages represented at your school. *

25) Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals.

	#
Total number of students.	<input type="text"/>
Total percentage of the student population.	<input type="text"/>

If the free/reduced-priced meals 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 the school arrived at this estimate.

26) Alternative method for estimating percentage of low-income families.

27) Students receiving special education services.

#

Total NUMBER of students in special education services.

Total PERCENTAGE of student population.

28) Indicate if your school is the district site for any specific magnet program(s). *

Yes

No

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

	Full Time	Part Time
Administrators	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Classroom Teachers	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Therapists Resource	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Teachers	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Paraprofessionals	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Support Staff	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Other	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>

30) Total number of full-time equivalent staff members.

30b) Total number of classrooms.

31) Attendance rate for past four academic school years. Please report in percentages. Data will be needed for school years, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024.

2020-2021

2021-2022

2022-2023

2023-2024

Average daily student attendance

rate.

--	--	--	--

Average daily teacher attendance rate.

--	--	--	--

Teacher turnover rate.

--	--	--	--

Student promotion rate.

--	--	--	--

Graduation rate (high schools).

--	--	--	--

32) Describe any significant changes or trends in the attendance rate data above. Explain why the changes occurred and the impact on your school programs. Note: for the 2020-2021 school year, the panel understands attendance rates were impacted by early school closures due to COVID-19. You do not need to spend a great deal of time in your response explaining this incidence. *

800-word limit.0/800

Section 3: School Summary

The school summary provides the panel with important background information for understanding the school. Please note that if the school is recognized, the summary may be made available to the press.

33) Structure the school summary narrative as follows:

- Include the school name, district, and city in the first sentence.
- State the school's vision, mission, and values. Briefly describe the process used to develop the school's vision, mission, and values and related goals.
- Summarize the strengths and accomplishments of the school, focusing especially on what makes the school a unique and successful place for learning and what makes it worthy of recognition. Emphasize the key initiatives and accomplishments that distinguish the school.
- Describe major challenges the school has faced in the past five years, how the school and community have successfully managed them, and what the school and community have learned from them. Be specific and share evidence.
- Discuss anticipated future challenges and the school's plans to address them.
- Conclude the summary with a strong statement about what makes the school an excellent place for students to learn, grow, and thrive.

33) School Summary Narrative *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Section 4: Effective Schools Evidence

34) Demonstrate your school's academic excellence through indicators of success. Upload a document (max 2 pages) that includes data other than AASA (Arizona Academic Standards Assessment) and ACT that demonstrates significant student academic growth and/or high student achievement over time. A summary of the data should be included as part of the two-pages.

Reviewers will have your school's most recent AASA scores so do NOT use this space for AASA. Other data examples may include but are not limited to:

- Charts and/or graphs depicting quantitative and/or qualitative data
- Quantitative data that reflects evidence of excellence in academics (for example: Benchmark assessments, DIBELS, AP Placement, AzCCRS, etc.)
- Quantitative data from unique programs that you are highlighting in your A+ application.
- Included in the two-pages should be a summary of the data you are providing.

Note: Attendance and behavior data can be included to support overall excellence of the school but should not be the single indicator.

Note: Any attachment over two pages will be disqualified.

Note: While teacher-created assessment data can be used, it should not be the only data used to show excellence.

Explain additional qualitative and/or quantitative ways your school measures success outside of achievement data.

Provide an analysis of the data and tell how the data demonstrates excellence. Examples may include but are not limited to benchmark assessments, caregiver surveys, engagement surveys, teacher and/or employee satisfaction surveys, etc. Tip: Consider how the data you are sharing supports programs or activities that you are discussing in your A+ application.

35) Additional Explanation of Success *

600-word limit.0/600

Section 5: Strong Instructional Leadership

Describe the leadership structure, roles, and functions that are important at school.

Specifically:

- Describe the role and style of the principal and/or administrative team as visionary leader(s), instructional leader(s), and lead learner(s). Give specific examples.
- Discuss how key stakeholders within the school have a voice in decision-making. In rich detail, describe how other leadership roles and positions held by stakeholders ensure a shared responsibility for the common good of the community. Talk about how these roles and positions are formed, selected, and structured.
- Describe the process in place for leadership to create, promote, support, measure, and sustain specific, concrete goals to guide teachers' efforts and support students' needs.

36) Leadership Structure *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Describe how the school improvement process or strategic plan is organized and managed to ensure continuous growth and improvement.

Specifically:

- Explain how research findings and data analysis (both qualitative and quantitative) inform policies and practices, programs, relationships, and use of resources to establish priorities and prompt school improvements.
- Describe the school's collaborative school improvement or strategic planning process and how major stakeholders are involved in school-wide and classroom improvement initiatives.
- Explain how professional development and collaboration support and sustain staff efforts, commitment and involvement related to the school's improvement process. Give specific examples and share evidence.
- Discuss how data analysis and interpretation are used to identify, develop, implement and assess the effectiveness of improvement or strategic planning. Give examples of specific changes that have been implemented as a result of the school's improvement or strategic plan.

37) School Improvement Process *

1500-word limit.0/1500

Section 6: School Organization and Culture

Explain how underlying school values, beliefs, and traditions ensure that people work together to solve problems and confront challenges.

Specifically:

- Describe how the school communicates and monitors the culture and values of the school to all stakeholders. Give specific examples.
- Detail how the observable behaviors and actions of all stakeholders reflect a positive climate at the school.
- Describe the activities and celebrations that are routinely practiced to build positive relations among students, staff, parents, and the community. Include participation rates; who and how many are involved?

38) Values, beliefs, and traditions. *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Explain how the school environment or climate is conducive to learning for all.

Specifically:

- Discuss how the school creates, monitors, and sustains a collaborative, cooperative, safe, and orderly environment for all stakeholders.
- Provide specific examples of how non-teaching staff members (i.e. counselors, administrators, paraprofessionals, transportation, maintenance, support, cafeteria, nurse, crossing guards, etc.) support and affect the school culture.
- Describe in rich detail how the school fosters positive interactions, respect, cooperation, and collaboration between and among students and adults, and promotes a healthy peer climate among students. Who coordinates these efforts and how do you know they are making an impact?

39) School Environment *

800-word limit.0/800

Section 7: Guaranteed, Viable Curriculum, Meaningful Assessment

Describe how the school's curriculum reflects the use of best practices across all grade levels.

Specifically:

- ◆ Detail the school’s implementation of clear curriculum articulation as well as authentic teacher collaboration across and within grade levels and to and from feeder schools. Share how essential content (knowledge and skills) is defined, sequenced, and organized to maximize student learning. Include descriptions of policies and procedures that protect instructional time.
- ◆ Discuss the procedures and tools used to monitor the consistent implementation of essential curriculum including how curriculum is attained by different groups of students across grade levels.
- ◆ Detail the processes that are in place to review the curriculum. Highlight how these processes reflect a school wide commitment to continuous improvement.
- ◆ Reference research base(s) as appropriate.

40) Curriculum and Best Practices *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Choose one unique program to discuss.

Consider the following:

- ◆ What sets your school apart in your district and/or community?
- ◆ Do you have a signature program or another unique initiative that may drive enrollment or support a need unique to your school or surrounding community?
- ◆ How does your school shine?

Tip: Avoid discussing programs that are commonplace or foundational among all schools. For example, all schools use some form of RTI. Highlighting RTI would not be unique unless your school is using it in a truly innovative and groundbreaking way.

Tip: In questions 34 and 35, you were asked to share qualitative and/or quantitative data. Consider using this space to elaborate on that data.

Tip: Use rich detail. Who is involved in the program? Why was this program adopted? Where do you see it making an impact?

41) Unique Program *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Describe how all students, including learners with unique needs, have the opportunity to learn challenging content and achieve at high levels.

Specifically:

- Describe the process for identifying and placing students in various programs. Tell how student progress is monitored and adjusted to ensure success.
- Tell how programs for diverse learning groups relate to the overall curriculum and how students are integrated into the mainstream classes and activities of the school when appropriate.
- Discuss what strategies are used to address different learning styles and needs. Provide specific examples and outcomes. Examples might include: expansion and modification of instructional time; double blocking; regrouping; co-teaching; flexible grouping; and other diverse instructional practices.
- Explain how these offerings relate to the overall curriculum and provide examples of their success.

Tip: Do not limit your response to just special education students. Include gifted, ELL students, etc.

42) Opportunities for Challenging Content *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Section 8: Active Teaching & Student Support

Describe what administrators and visitors at your school would observe on any given day.

Use rich detail to describe:

- What might they see and hear teachers and students doing?
- What evidence of student learning would be visible?

43) Visitor Observations *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Explain how your school is helping students understand they are citizens of the world.

- What types of opportunities and resources are available both inside and outside of the classroom?
- How are students engaged in service learning or similar type collaborations with local groups that help them connect to the world beyond their schools?
- What resources are provided to support these efforts?

44) Opportunities and Resources *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Using rich detail, share how the non-academic, social-emotional, and cultural needs of the student population are addressed and responded to through a network of cohesive and integrated programs and services.

Specifically:

- Describe how the school identifies, assesses and meets the specific needs of all its students as defined by its population.
- Describe the non-academic services and programs that are available to support students and detail how they relate to student needs and school goals.
- Describe how all students are encouraged to build sustainable, caring relationships with each other, teachers and other adults on campus.
- Describe systems in place to help students learn to handle frustration, anger, teasing, bullying, and other negative interactions (e.g. counseling, character education programs, health services, student intervention assessments, etc.).
- Articulate school-wide systems in place to address and minimize the effects on school climate of factors such as absenteeism, serious discipline problems, high turnover of students or staff, or other negative factors.
- Discuss the strategies in place to ease transitions and provide support for transfer students, first-year students, family moves, etc.
- Provide specific examples of student success as a result of student interventions.

45) Needs of Student Population *

1000-word limit.0/1000

SECTION 9: CAREGIVER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Articulate the role that families, partnerships and the community play in supporting learning.

Specifically:

- Describe the goals and priorities of school, family and community partnerships and how those same goals and priorities are communicated to stakeholders and aligned with school priorities.
- Describe challenges, if any, the school faces with caregiver involvement or in developing partnerships or participation. Be specific.
- Describe how partnership goals are collaboratively developed with all stakeholders; detail what strategies are used to involve people from all segments of the community in supporting education. Provide examples of community partnerships that resulted in the school being a respected and valued partner.
- Cite ways in which the school involves all families in school initiatives and programs to build a shared commitment to student success; reference participation rates and give evidence of success. Provide specific examples of how the school supports and enhances the caregiver role and involves families in decision-making. Tell how the school establishes two-way communication and ensures authentic involvement of families from all segments of the school community in a way that respects diverse backgrounds and challenging needs of the families.
- Detail how volunteers are recruited, trained, and made to feel like an integral part of the school.

46) Role of Families, Partnerships, and Community *

1000-word limit.0/1000

Explain how educational resources in the school and the community are used to extend learning opportunities for students, teachers and families.

Specifically:

- Describe if and how the school partners with outside entities (e.g. museums, public libraries, community enrichment programs, performing arts institutions, nonprofit organizations, etc.) to provide extended learning opportunities for students and/or professional development opportunities for staff.
- Provide an example(s) of an extended learning opportunity that demonstrates a positive effect on relationships, student learning, and/or improved student performance.
- Detail services, if any, that are provided at or through the school in the areas of health and social services, adult education or referrals to community agencies.
- Describe relationships with outside agencies that utilize school facilities outside of regular school hours.

47) Use of Educational Resources & Community *

800-word limit.0/800

Sign and Submit

Use your finger or stylus to sign.

I have carefully reviewed the information in this application package and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If the school receives the A+ School of Excellence™ designation, the contents of this application may be made available to the public. A+ School of Excellence™ is a registered trademark of the Arizona Educational Foundation. The applicant school will comply with the logo and name usage agreement related to A+ School of Excellence™, which will be given to the school upon earning the award. No school is authorized to promote itself as an A+ School of Excellence™ award-winning school unless and until notified by the Arizona Educational Foundation. I also certify that my Superintendent (and School Board where appropriate) has been notified and approves of our submission of this application.

Clicking "Submit" below will complete your A+ application. Congratulations, and thank you for applying for the A+ School of Excellence Award.

Use 2024-2025 data for questions 16-30.