



A+ School of Excellence™ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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, Arizona state-accredited public charter school, Arizona state-accredited, and Arizona State Board of Education approved public Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) school, or school operating under the Bureau of Indian Education, with some combination of grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- To be eligible for and maintain an A+ School of Excellence award status, a school must be rated “A” or “B” by the Arizona Department of Education based on the most recent available school letter grades and demonstrate sustained high levels of student academic achievement and growth for all students through multiple measures.
- If, during the four-year A+ School of Excellence award term, an A+ school obtains a letter grade of “C,” the school **may submit an appeal** to the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF). The appeal must include a concise, two-page summary with supporting charts and/or graphs presenting quantitative and qualitative data that demonstrate continued academic success. Appeal evidence may include benchmark assessment data, DIBELS, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment performance indicators, CCRI data, student proficiency outcomes aligned to Arizona’s Academic Standards, and data from distinctive programs highlighted in the school’s A+ application. **All “C” letter grade appeals must be submitted to brett@azedfoundation.org upon the Arizona Department of Education's annual school letter grade public release and within 30 calendar days thereafter.**
- 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 that 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.
- 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 Civil Rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
- Current A+ School of Excellence schools may not reapply before the end of their current application cycle. Please refer to the A+ School of Excellence guidelines and resources at <https://azedfoundation.org/>
- Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) reserves the right to revoke an A+ Award at any time if a school no longer meets the eligibility criteria.

Any questions about the A+ School of Excellence eligibility criteria or with extenuating circumstances, may contact the Arizona Educational Foundation at **(480) 421-9376** or email brett@azedfoundation.org