



## ASBSD School Board Award of Excellence

---

### OVERVIEW

---

Associated School Boards of South Dakota is committed to recognizing the dedication and leadership of South Dakota School Boards. The School Board Award of Excellence will be given annually to a public school board which consistently demonstrates outstanding leadership that enhances the achievement for all students.

To earn the award, a school board must have demonstrated governance leadership in promoting excellence and equity in public education by fulfilling its responsibilities to improve student achievement.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All public school boards that are members of Associated School Boards of South Dakota in good standing are eligible. School boards may be nominated by a staff, a community member or by the board.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Screening and final judging will be done by a (5 to 7 member) panel of school board members, educators and business community members established by the ASBSD Board of Directors.

**AWARD AND RECOGNITION:** The board will be identified and recognized at their local district and at the ASBSD and SASD Convention. A plaque and a scholarship award of \$1,000 will be presented to the recipient board. The formal presentation of the plaque and cash award will be made during School Board Recognition month in January as mutually agreeable with the recipient board and ASBSD in the school district. The \$1,000 cash award may be used, at the discretion of the board, for board learning and development, a scholarship to a student of the board's choice, or any other purpose to promote the district's vision.

**TO APPLY:** An application form and information can be found on the ASBSD website. Applications for the 2014 school year must be postmarked or delivered electronically to the ASBSD office on or before December 13, 2013 to:

Katie Mitchell-Boe  
Associated School Boards of South Dakota  
PO Box 1059,  
Pierre, SD 57501  
katie@asbsd.org

# 2014 School Board Award of Excellence Application

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Board President: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Board Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Board Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Members' Name:

Years of School Board Experience:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

---

APPLICATION DIRECTIONS:

---

1. Complete the cover page with the information requested.
2. On behalf of the board, include a statement by the board president describing your board's most important contributions to improved student learning during the past year.
  - a. Limit of two pages, double spaced, and 12 point font.
3. Describe how your board has fulfilled some or all of the "Roles of the Board for Improved Student Learning" listed on the next page.
  - a. Limit of one page per role for a total of no more than 5 pages, double spaced, 12 point font.
4. Include data that demonstrates how your board's commitment has resulted, or is starting to result in, changes in your district. Possibilities might include student learning data, assessment results, implementation data from initiatives aligned to student learning goals, or other data.
  - a. Limit of two pages, double spaced, 12 point font.
5. Up to three letters of endorsement in support of the board application are allowed.
6. Application may be submitted through the mail (postmarked no later than December 13, 2013) or electronically, also by December 13, 2013, to:

Katie Mitchell-Boe  
Associated School Boards of South Dakota  
PO Box 1059  
Pierre, SD 57501  
katie@asbsd.org

---

CHECKLIST:

---

Total application with these components should be no more than 13 pages. If you have questions, contact ASBSD Executive Secretary Katie Mitchell-Boe via email at [Katie@asbsd.org](mailto:Katie@asbsd.org) or by phone at 605-773-2502.

- ✓ Cover page (1 page)
- ✓ Statement signed by the board president (up to 2 pages)
- ✓ Description of the "Five Roles of the Board for Improved Student Learning (up to 5 pages)
- ✓ District data in support of the application (up to 2 pages)
- ✓ Letters of endorsement (up to 3 pages)

## THE ROLES OF THE BOARD FOR IMPROVED STUDENT LEARNING

ASBSD recognizes the following leadership roles of the board in improving student learning.

1. Set clear expectations.
  - Believe more is possible and communicate high expectations.
  - Get clear about the greatest student learning needs – the most important content area to improve first.
  - Establish a clear and narrow focus for improvement – clarify improvement goals and specific targets.
  - Focus on student learning and teaching – improved teaching as the key strategy for improved learning.
2. Create conditions for success.
  - Demonstrate commitment to the improvement focus through board actions and decisions.
  - Support quality professional development.
  - Support and connect with district wide leadership.
  - Develop and nurture board/superintendent team leadership.
  - Align all parts of the system around the learning needs of students (curriculum, instruction, assessment, goals, actions, resource allocations, etc.)
  - Stay the course.
3. Hold the system accountable to the expectations.
  - Use data extensively.
  - Determine what you will accept as evidence of progress/success.
  - Monitor progress regularly.
  - Apply pressure for accountability.
4. Build collective will.
  - Create awareness of the need.
  - Create urgency around the moral purpose of improvement.
  - Instill hope that it's possible to change.
  - Connect with the community.
5. Learn together as a board team.
  - Establish board learning time.
  - Learn together.
  - Talk to each other – extensive board conversation.
  - Develop a willingness and readiness to lead and allow others to lead.
  - Build commitment to the focus through shared information and discussion.
  - Engage in deliberative policy development – lead through your policies.

---

## EVALUATION PROCESS AND SELECTION COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

---

- All applications will be reviewed by ASBSD staff for compliance with directions; incomplete applications will be removed from consideration.
- ASBSD staff will train the selection committee on the screening process, including review forms, assessment guidelines and procedures.
- The selection process will use a blind screening method, which means the district name and other identifying names will be blocked-out during screening. The name of the successful district will be identified after a selection is made.
- The selection committee will include five to seven members. Members of the committee should be individuals who have served the public in positions with a high level of recognition and responsibility.
- Some potential candidates for Selection Committee include:
  - President or vice president of ASBSD
  - Two past presidents of ASBSD - One east river and one west river
  - Member of the State Board of Education
  - South Dakota's current outstanding superintendent
  - President of the State Chamber of Commerce

---

## SCORING

---

1. Complete the cover page with the information requested. (0 pts)
2. On behalf of the board, include a statement by the board president describing your board's most important contributions to improved student learning during the past year. (5 pts)
  - a. Limit of two pages, double spaced, and 12 point font.
3. Describe how your board has fulfilled some or all of the "Roles of the Board for Improved Student Learning" listed on the next page. (15 pts per section = 75 pts)
  - a. Limit of one page per role for a total of no more than 5 pages, double spaced, 12 point font.
4. Include data that demonstrates how your board's commitment has resulted, or is starting to result in, changes in your district. Possibilities might include student learning data, assessment results, implementation data from initiatives aligned to student learning goals, or other data. (5 pts)
  - a. Limit of two pages, double spaced, 12 point font.
5. Up to three letters of endorsement in support of the board application are allowed. (15 pts)