



SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION
ILLINOIS ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

FAQ for Schools of Distinction

1. Can a district apply for this award?

Schools of Distinction recognizes excellent art, design, and media programs within individual schools; it is not a district-wide recognition. However, if a school and district are synonymous - where a district consists of a single K-12 school, the district may apply as a school.

2. Do all teachers in a district fill out a single form?

No, unless a school is synonymous with a district, only teachers within a school should be represented on an application. Not all teachers need to fill out the application, but all teachers in the school should be documented.

3. I teach at two schools. Should I fill out a form for each school?

Yes. If you apply for recognition at both schools, the documentation needs to represent each school.

4. Are there examples I can see of past winners?

Yes. There are examples on the website highlighting past submissions.

5. How do I turn in the Schools of Distinction files?

First, copy [the awards submission template form](#). After you fill in the required application information, go to [School of Distinction Form](#) to submit your completed application in slides format.



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6. My art program looks different this year because of COVID. Can I document accomplishments from last year?

Normally, applicant schools utilize examples from their program extending back 24 months. As a result of the pandemic and subsequent changes in the school days, applicant schools can use examples extending back 36 months.

7. For how long does this recognition extend?

Recognition as a School of Distinction extends for two years at which point a school will have to reapply and renew their status.

8. This is my first year in a new school; can I apply accomplishments from previous years?

As a school-based application, all evidence must be generated from the applying school. If you are a new teacher in a new assignment with additional art, design, and media education staff, you may apply with those veteran teachers. If you are a new teacher in a new assignment replacing a previous, solitary teacher, you should wait until you have accumulated ample evidence in that program for a submission.

9. Is this a competitive award?

Each school has a fair and equal chance at this award.

10. What is the difference between the Schools of Distinction recognition and Best School Art Program awards?

The Schools of Distinction award replaces the Best School Art Program award. Unlike Best School Art Program, this award allows for recognition relative to the number and size of school staff. A focus on individual schools, narrows the scope to factors influenced by strong teaching and leadership in a school.



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11. Our program increased/decreased the number of art, design, and media educators over the past two years. Which bracket of staff requirements do we utilize?

If it increased or decreased the amount more than 12 months prior then you must use your current number of staff to apply. If it changed within the year, you may use the previous number.

12. Part of the requirements include a percentage of teachers in the building being current IAEA members. At what point will you be checking for membership so I can ensure everyone is up to date?

All teachers should be up to date with membership by June 30th, which is the last day to turn in submissions.