

AMERICA'S BEST URBAN SCHOOLS AWARD APPLICATION

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National Center for
Urban School Transformation

Dual Language School

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



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Welcome to the NCUST America's Best Urban Schools Award Program!

*Thanks for considering applying to our 2017-2018 program to recognize some of the best urban schools in the nation! We are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize outstanding educators who create excellent learning opportunities for students. This year, we will award schools in five categories: elementary, middle, high, alternative, and dual-language schools. We look forward to recognizing the nation's very best urban schools in each category. A school may apply for the award in **only one** of the five categories. Districts may submit applications for **no more than five schools in total**. Be sure to choose wisely!*

The application requires the submission of substantial data because we must distinguish among many deserving schools. Please read each question thoroughly and answer completely and accurately. While we acknowledge that this process requires work, we know that many schools find the process worthwhile because they learn more about their strengths and opportunities to improve. We hope the process supports your ongoing improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

Questions?

If you have questions about the application or the application process, please e-mail your questions to megan@mail.sdsu.edu or call 619-594-7905. Please note that NCUST must receive your completed application by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Friday, December 1, 2017 in order to ensure consideration. Application process and submission information is provided on pages IV and V. Additionally, we are requesting that schools submit an Intent-to-Apply form (page VI) by Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

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2018 Award Winner's Recognition Package

Every school that submits an application by Friday, December 1, 2017 and meets all eligibility criteria will be identified as either an honor-roll school or a finalist for the bronze, silver, or gold-level award.

Becoming an Honor-Roll School

By Friday, December 15, 2017, NCUST will announce the honor-roll schools and finalists for the bronze-level award. Every applicant that meets all eligibility criteria will, at least, be recognized as an honor-roll school. Honor-roll schools will receive a certificate acknowledging their accomplishment. Also, NCUST will recognize honor-roll schools on the NCUST website.

Becoming a Bronze-Level Winner

By comparing the applications and video submissions of schools that meet all eligibility criteria, NCUST will select applicants with the strongest evidence of academic strength for all populations of students as finalists for the bronze-level award. Between February and April 2018, all finalists will receive on-site visits from teams of NCUST personnel, former award-winning principals, and other outstanding educators. Each visit team will validate the application data, acquire additional evidence of strength, and study the practices that contribute to the school's success. If the team validates the application and identifies high levels of curricular, instructional, and relational strength (commensurate with previous bronze-level winners), by May 2018, the school will be notified that it is a bronze-level winner.

Becoming Silver-Level Winners

By May 2018, (based upon application and site-visit data), NCUST will announce the schools with the strongest evidence of excellence among the finalists. These schools will be notified that they are at least silver-level winners. (See **Becoming Gold-level Winners**.)

Becoming Gold-Level Winners

The silver-level schools with the strongest evidence of excellence (based upon application and site-visit data) will become our gold-level award winners. The gold-level winners will be announced during the awards ceremony at the October 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Symposium.

The prize packages for each award level include the following:

Prize	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Expense-paid trip to National Symposium in San Diego, CA	For two people	For two people	For two people
Large banner, certificate, bumper stickers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cash award	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000
Profile on the NCUST website	Yes	Yes	Yes
Opportunity for students to win cash prizes in speech contest	Yes	Yes	Yes
Opportunity to participate in school volunteer recognition program	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Application Process

The application includes three important parts: 1) the intent-to-apply, 2) the written application, and 3) a video submission.

Intent-to-Apply

The **intent-to-apply form** (page VI) provides information that will enable NCUST to anticipate each school's application. By submitting this form, you help ensure that NCUST will receive and review your school's application in a timely manner. If a school does not submit the **intent-to-apply form** by Wednesday, November 1, 2017, it may still apply; however, NCUST cannot guarantee that the application will be received and reviewed.

Written Application

Please do not submit an application if the school does not meet all of the criteria specified. The **cover page** (page 1) provides information that will enable NCUST to contact appropriate persons throughout the application process. The **demographic profile** (page 2) contains information that helps NCUST understand more about the applicant school; however, these data are not used to determine eligibility for the America's Best Urban Schools Award. The application **questions** (pages 3-14) include 18 items that will help determine if a school qualifies to be considered for an NCUST America's Best Urban School Award. Also, these items will be used to help determine which qualifying schools will be selected as finalists for the bronze-level award. The **certification page** (page 15) requires signatures that assure all information submitted in the application is true and accurate.

Video Submission

In addition to the written application, all applicant schools must submit a DVD with video clips of two lessons that are representative of the highest quality instruction that occurs at your school. The **video submission** will let the NCUST evaluation team view examples of excellent instruction to help determine which schools will be finalists for the bronze-level award. The DVD should include at least 10 minutes, but not more than 30 minutes from each lesson and should clearly state the grade level being taught, the subject area being addressed, and the specific student objective(s) for each lesson. To provide strong evidence of the lesson's quality, consider including a few minutes from the start of the lesson, a few minutes mid-lesson, and a few minutes toward the lesson's end. Please send the **DVD** and **the video cover sheet** (page 16) to NCUST along with the paper copy of the application by the due date (12/1/2017).

Photograph Submission

Please provide 15-20 digital photos that give us a sense of what your school is like. Please include teacher-student activities and the signed permission form (page 17) allowing NCUST to use the photos. (You need not provide signed permission from each individual pictured.) **Photos must be in .jpg format with the highest resolution possible on a CD** titled with your school's name and sent to NCUST along with the signed permission form by the due date (12/1/17).

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2018 America's Best Urban Schools Application Submission Instructions

1. Please submit the Intent-to-Apply Form (page VI) by Wednesday, November 1, 2017.
2. Complete applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Friday, December 1, 2017 to ensure consideration.
3. We request that you submit your completed application by two methods.
 - A. Please mail a packet including:
 - ___ Cover Sheet
 - ___ Paper copy of the completed application
 - ___ Certification Page with original signatures
 - ___ DVD cover sheet
 - ___ DVD of sample lessons

To:

National Center for Urban School Transformation
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive, EBA 332
San Diego, CA 92182-1165

- B. Please send an electronic file of the completed application as an attachment to:

megan@mail.sdsu.edu

(Please do not attempt to send video clips or photos via e-mail as they may overload the server.)

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



2018 America's Best Urban Schools Intent-to-Apply Form

Please submit this one-page form to NCUST by **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**. By submitting this form, you help ensure that NCUST will receive and review your school's application in a timely manner. If a school does not submit the Intent-to-Apply form by November 1st, it may still apply; however, NCUST cannot guarantee that the application will be received and reviewed.

We believe that our school meets the criteria for the 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Award, and we intend to submit an application by Friday, December 1, 2017.

Name of school: _____

Name of school district: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Grades served in 2016-17: _____

School's website: _____

School's phone number: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Position of contact person: _____

Email of contact person: _____

Phone number of contact person: _____

Please send a copy of this form via fax to 619-594-0501, or via email to megan@mail.sdsu.edu.

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Application Cover Page

NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT:	
NAME OF SCHOOL BEING NOMINATED:	
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	
CITY:	
STATE:	
ZIP CODE:	
SCHOOL HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:	
SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:	
MAIN SCHOOL TELEPHONE:	
NAME AND POSITION OF MAIN CONTACT PERSON:	
CONTACT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
PRINCIPAL'S NAME: (IF OTHER THAN CONTACT PERSON)	
PRINCIPAL'S PHONE:	
PRINCIPAL'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
YEAR CURRENT PRINCIPAL BECAME PRINCIPAL AT THIS SCHOOL:	
SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME:	
SUPERINTENDENT'S PHONE:	
SUPERINTENDENT'S EMAIL:	
PRINCIPAL'S SUPERVISOR (IF OTHER THAN SUPT.) NAME AND POSITION:	
PRINCIPAL'S SUPERVISOR PHONE:	
PRINCIPAL'S SUPERVISOR EMAIL:	
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE PHONE:	
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE EMAIL:	

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Demographic Profile of the High-Performing Urban School

1. NAME OF SCHOOL BEING NOMINATED:																																	
2. IS THE NOMINATED SCHOOL A CHARTER SCHOOL?		___ YES ___ NO																															
3. DUAL LANGUAGE MODEL AND PROGRAMMING:																																	
WHAT YEAR DID THE DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM START? <hr/> IF THE DL PROGRAM STARTED AS A STRAND, WHICH YEAR DID IT TRANSITION TO A SCHOOL-WIDE DL PROGRAM? <hr/>	WHAT IS/ARE THE PARTNER LANGUAGE(S)*? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">*NCUST DEFINES ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AS STUDENTS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH AND DEFINES PARTNER LANGUAGE LEARNERS AS STUDENTS WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT THE PARTNER LANGUAGE (E.G., ARABIC, SPANISH, MANDARIN).</p>	DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM MODEL/TYPE? ___ TWO-WAY IMMERSION ___ ONE-WAY IMMERSION (E.G. DEVELOPMENTAL BILINGUAL, WORLD / FOREIGN LANGUAGE IMMERSION, ETC.) ___ HERITAGE LANGUAGE ___ OTHER:	% OF INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH (E)? % OF INSTRUCTION IN PARTNER LANGUAGE(S) (PL)? _____% <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">TK</td> <td style="width: 10%;">___ E%</td> <td style="width: 10%;">___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1ST</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2ND</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3RD</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4TH</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5TH</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6TH</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7TH</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8TH</td> <td>___ E%</td> <td>___ PL%</td> </tr> </table>	TK	___ E%	___ PL%	K	___ E%	___ PL%	1 ST	___ E%	___ PL%	2 ND	___ E%	___ PL%	3 RD	___ E%	___ PL%	4 TH	___ E%	___ PL%	5 TH	___ E%	___ PL%	6 TH	___ E%	___ PL%	7 TH	___ E%	___ PL%	8 TH	___ E%	___ PL%
TK	___ E%	___ PL%																															
K	___ E%	___ PL%																															
1 ST	___ E%	___ PL%																															
2 ND	___ E%	___ PL%																															
3 RD	___ E%	___ PL%																															
4 TH	___ E%	___ PL%																															
5 TH	___ E%	___ PL%																															
6 TH	___ E%	___ PL%																															
7 TH	___ E%	___ PL%																															
8 TH	___ E%	___ PL%																															
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR THE PRESENT YEAR AND EACH OF THE PAST TWO YEARS																																	
2015-16:	2016-17:	2017-18:																															
5. GRADES SERVED FOR EACH OF THE PAST THREE YEARS:																																	
2015-16:	2016-17:	2017-18:																															
6. CURRENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP 2017-18:																																	
(Please rename, add, or omit categories to fit your district or state.)	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE																															
ASIAN																																	
PACIFIC ISLANDER																																	
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN																																	
LATINO OR HISPANIC																																	
MULTI-RACIAL																																	
NATIVE AMERICAN																																	
WHITE OR CAUCASIAN																																	
OTHER: (PLEASE SPECIFY)																																	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS																																	
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES																																	
STUDENTS MEETING LOW-INCOME CRITERIA																																	
7. HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT AMERICA'S BEST URBAN SCHOOLS AWARD COMPETITION?																																	
___ ATTENDANCE AT NCUST SYMPOSIUM	___ LETTER FROM NCUST																																
___ NCUST FLYER	___ NCUST WEBSITE																																
___ NOMINATION FROM DISTRICT	___ NOMINATION FROM STATE																																
___ OTHER: _____																																	

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Application Questions

1. Did the school win an America's Best Urban Schools Award (formally the National Excellence in Urban Education Award) in any year after 2015?

- a. Did the school win a **gold-level** or **silver-level** America's Best Urban Schools Award in 2016 or 2017? YES NO.

If the answer to item 1a is "yes," the school does not qualify for this award competition. Schools that won the America's Best Urban Schools Award in 2015 or prior may qualify.

- b. Did the school apply for the 2017 America's Best Urban Schools Award?

YES NO

*Prior applicants may reapply as long as they were not **gold-level** or **silver-level** winners in either of the past two years.*

2. Does the school use selective admissions criteria?

- a. Does this school serve a zoned population, or is it a choice/magnet campus?

Zoned Population Choice/Magnet Campus

- b. What percent of the school population does the choice program serve? _____%

- c. If it is a choice campus, does it have academic requirements for admission?

YES NO

If the answer to 2b is greater than 10% and the answer to 2c is yes, the school does not qualify for this award competition

- d. If it is a choice campus, are there other requirements for admission? Please describe:

- e. Are students denied continued enrollment if their academic performances fall below certain levels? YES NO

If the answer to item 2e is "yes," the school does not qualify for this award competition.

3. Is the city in which the school is located considered urban?

Is the school located in a metropolitan area with a population greater than 50,000? (If in doubt, see the U.S. Census Bureau's list of Metropolitan Statistical Areas.)

YES NO

If the answer to item 3 is "no" the school does not qualify for this award competition.

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School Name: _____

District Name: _____

4. Did the school maintain an average daily attendance rate equal to or greater than 92%?

a. What was the average daily attendance rate in 2016-17? _____%

b. What was the average daily attendance rate in 2015-16? _____%

Dual language schools will be compared with other dual language school applicants. NCUST recognizes that a 92% or more average daily attendance rate may not be reflective of particular school contexts. If you have a compelling case as to why your ADA is below 92% for each year, please attach a written explanation with your application.

c. In 2016-17, what percentage of students missed a total of 15 days or more of school? _____%

No absolute criteria have been set for this question. Data from applicants will be compared.

5. Do a large percentage of students qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch, or meet other low-income criteria used by your state education agency?

What number/percentage of students meet free- or reduced-price lunch or state low-income criteria?

a. Based on 2017-18 enrollment data? **NUMBER** _____ **PERCENTAGE** _____%

b. Based on 2016-17 enrollment data? **NUMBER** _____ **PERCENTAGE** _____%

c. Based on 2015-16 enrollment data? **NUMBER** _____ **PERCENTAGE** _____%

*Each percentage listed in a, b, and c must be **equal to or greater than 50**. If for any year, the percentage falls under this threshold, the school does not qualify.*

6. Did the percentage of the school's students demonstrating proficiency on state assessments exceed the statewide average at each grade level?

a. What percent of enrolled students in tested grades participated in the state assessment? _____%

b. Please indicate whether the assessment results are for tests administered in English, the partner language, or both. _____

c. List the official state assessments administered for accountability across the top of Tables A and B (page 5). For each grade tested, list the percentage of students performing at the **proficient or advanced levels** for your school and the corresponding state average for 2016-17 (Table A) and 2015-2016 (Table B). If your state did not administer an assessment in 2016-17, list data from the most recent state assessment.

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School Name: _____

District Name: _____

TABLE A: STATE ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE FOR 2016-17

GRADE % AND STATE %	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON
	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT
GRADE 3 %						
STATE %						
GRADE 4 %						
STATE %						
GRADE 5 %						
STATE %						
GRADE 6 %						
STATE %						

TABLE B: STATE ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE FOR 2015-16

GRADE % AND STATE %	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON	% PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON
	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT	STATE ASSESSMENT
GRADE 3 %						
STATE %						
GRADE 4 %						
STATE %						
GRADE 5 %						
STATE %						
GRADE 6 %						
STATE %						

Please state the source of your data and the URL: _____

*If the percentage of students listed in at least half of the grade-level cells **for both of the past two years** exceeds the statewide percentage of students demonstrating proficiency for the same grade levels and subject areas, the school meets this eligibility requirement.*

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School Name: _____

District Name: _____

7. For each demographic group served at the school, did the percentage of students who demonstrated proficient or advanced performance in each subject exceed the statewide average for all students?¹

List the official state assessments administered for accountability across the top of Table C and Table D. For each assessment administered to **at least 20 students** in the demographic group listed, list the **total number tested** and the **percentage that scored proficient or advanced** for 2016-17 (Table C) and 2015-16 (Table D).

TABLE C: DISAGGREGATED STATE ASSESSMENT DATA FOR DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS FOR 2016-17

<i>(Please list state assessments administered to your students.)</i>	TOTAL # TESTED	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON
ASIAN						
PACIFIC ISLANDER						
BLACK /AFRICAN AMERICAN						
LATINO OR HISPANIC						
MULTI-RACIAL						
NATIVE AMERICAN						
WHITE OR CAUCASIAN						
STUDENTS MEETING LOW-INCOME CRITERIA						
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS						
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES						
OTHER: (PLEASE SPECIFY)						
STATE AVG FOR ALL STUDENTS						

TABLE D: DISAGGREGATED STATE ASSESSMENT DATA FOR DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS FOR 2015-16

<i>(Please list state assessments administered to your students.)</i>	TOTAL# TESTED	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON	% PROF. OR ADV. ON
ASIAN						
PACIFIC ISLANDER						
BLACK /AFRICAN AMERICAN						
LATINO OR HISPANIC						
MULTI-RACIAL						
NATIVE AMERICAN						
WHITE OR CAUCASIAN						
STUDENTS MEETING LOW-INCOME CRITERIA						
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS						
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES						
OTHER: (PLEASE SPECIFY)						
STATE AVG FOR ALL STUDENTS	NA					

¹ NCUST recognizes that in dual language programs, academic achievement in both languages may take up to five years.

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School Name: _____

District Name: _____

For every group with more than 20 students tested, NCUST compares the percentage of students achieving at the proficient and advanced levels with the statewide averages for ALL students. **Each demographic group must exceed statewide averages for ALL students in at least two subject areas.** If one or more demographic groups listed above did not exceed statewide averages in at least two subject areas, the school does not qualify for this award competition.

Exception: The achievement results for English language learners and students with disabilities will be compared across applicant schools and need not meet the criteria specified above.

8. What evidence indicates high and growing achievement among English learners?

- a. Number of English language learners: _____
- b. What percent of English language learners advanced to a higher level of proficiency on the most recent state English language assessment (i.e., ACCESS, CELDT, TELPAS, etc.)? _____%

No absolute criteria have been set for this question. Data from applicants will be compared.

9. What evidence indicates growth and achievement in partner language performance?

- a. Does the school use an assessment to measure partner language performance?
 YES NO

If the answer is "yes," describe/name the assessment used to measure partner language performance.

If the answer is "no," describe how the school measures partner language performance.

- b. What evidence indicates high and growing achievement in partner language performance?

- c. Number English language learners assessed in 2016-2017: _____
- d. What percent of English language learners were proficient? _____%
- e. What percent advanced to a higher level of proficiency? _____%
- f. Number of partner language learners assessed in 2016-2017: _____
- g. What percent of partner language learners were proficient? _____%
- h. What percent advanced to a higher level of proficiency? _____%

No absolute criteria have been set for this question. Data from applicants will be compared.

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School Name: _____

District Name: _____

10. Were suspensions rare for each demographic group of students?

Provide the total number of students enrolled in 2016-17 in each demographic group and the total number of days students in the group did not attend school because of suspensions. For example, if during the year, three students with disabilities were suspended for two days each and one student with disabilities was suspended for five days, the number in Column B for students with disabilities would be 11 [(3x2)+(1x5)].

TABLE H: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION RATES FOR 2016-17

<i>(Please rename, add, or omit categories below to fit your district or state.)</i>	A. NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL	B. TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS STUDENTS IN THE GROUP DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL BECAUSE OF SUSPENSIONS
ASIAN		
PACIFIC ISLANDER		
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN		
LATINO OR HISPANIC		
MULTI-RACIAL		
NATIVE AMERICAN		
WHITE OR CAUCASIAN		
STUDENTS MEETING LOW-INCOME CRITERIA		
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS		
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES		
OTHER: (PLEASE SPECIFY)		

For every demographic group listed with an enrollment greater than 20, if the total number of student days lost to suspensions (Column B) is less than the total number of students enrolled (Column A), the school meets this eligibility requirement.

11. Were the rates of teacher bilingual authorization/certification high?

What percentage of teachers was bilingual authorized/certified by your state in 2016-17? _____%

No absolute criteria have been established for this item. Data from applications will be compared.

12. Were the rates of teacher absenteeism low?

What percentage of teachers were absent for more than a total of 10 school days in 2016-17? _____%

No absolute criteria have been established for this item. Data from applications will be compared.

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

13. How and to what extent is the school is achieving excellence in developing students' bilingualism, biliteracy, and multicultural competence?

In the space below, please list the evidence that your school is achieving excellence in developing students' bilingualism, biliteracy, and multicultural competence. For example, the percentage of students participating in extra-curricular activities related to partner language(s), the percentage of students participating in district or state-level competitions in the partner language(s), or other evidence of accomplishment.

DEVELOPING STUDENTS' BILINGUALISM, BILITERACY, AND MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

14. How is the school ensuring that all students (at grade level, below grade level, and above grade level, special needs, etc.) have access to the same standard-based, rigorous curricula in both the partner language(s) and English? What structures and/or practices are employed to ensure all students are learning the same challenging content and skills?

Please answer in one page or less. Please write out acronyms and describe programs that might not be common to all schools across the nation.

ENSURING ALL STUDENTS ACCESS TO RIGOROUS BILINGUAL CURRICULA

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

15. How do the teachers in the school plan and deliver engaging, effective, and equitable instruction that leads students to mastery? What structures and/or practices are in place to support the ongoing improvement of teaching and learning for all?

Please answer in one page or less. Please write out acronyms and describe programs that might not be common to all schools across the nation.

PROVIDING ENGAGING, EFFECTIVE, EQUITABLE INSTRUCTION:

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

16. To what extent is the school a place where all stakeholders (students, teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, and community members) feel valued, respected, and cared for? In what ways does the school promote educators' collective sense of commitment to the success of each student?

Please answer in one page or less. Please write out acronyms and describe programs that might not be common to all schools across the nation.

PROMOTING A POSITIVE, TRANSFORMATIONAL SCHOOL CULTURE:

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

17. What extra-curricular accomplishments or distinctions have been earned by the school?

Provide a bulleted list. Examples might include awards, growth data from state assessments, percentages of students completing rigorous courses of study, awards for teaching excellence, or awards earned for school-wide excellence in academic disciplines, art, music, drama, career and technical education, or physical education.

Please answer in one page or less. Please write out acronyms and describe programs that might not be common to all schools across the nation.

OTHER EVIDENCE OF EXCELLENCE:

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

18. What, if any, additional effort does the school make to ensure that students are successful when they advance to the next educational level (e.g., middle school, high school)?

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS AT THE NEXT EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Required Forms

America's Best Urban Schools Award Certification Page

(To be submitted with paper application only—please do not scan and submit electronically, because file size may overload server.)

NAME OF SCHOOL BEING NOMINATED:	
NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT:	
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	
CITY:	
STATE:	
ZIP CODE:	

Collectively, we, the undersigned, nominate the above-named school for the NCUST America's Best Urban Schools Award. We affirm that, to the best of our knowledge, the school meets all of the required eligibility criteria specified in the application form and all of the information contained in this application is accurate. We believe that this school is transforming teaching and learning in a manner that is leading to excellent results for all of the students served.

PLEASE PROVIDE ORIGINAL SIGNATURES OF THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW.

Contact person for application:		Date:
Principal:		Date:
Parent organization president:		Date:
Superintendent:		Date:
School board president:		Date:
Teacher:		Date:
Teacher:		Date:
Teacher:		Date:
Parent:		Date:
Parent:		Date:
Parent:		Date:

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

America's Best Urban Schools Award Video Cover Sheet and Release Form

Please print, sign and submit with your paper application and DVD submission.



Please find enclosed a DVD with the required digital video recording from two lessons taught at _____.

I certify that we have acquired and retained written permission from all adults who appear in the video recordings as well as from the parents of students who appear in the recordings.

By signing below, I understand that we are giving NCUST full rights to the use of the recordings for the following purposes:

1. During the selection process, NCUST evaluators will view the video recordings to help determine finalists for the America's Best Urban Schools Award.
2. We give NCUST full rights to use the video recordings to help educators transform urban schools and school districts through the Center's website, training materials, events, and in other publications and productions.

These rights are given without any compensation or request for future compensation.

Principal printed name:		
Principal signature:		Date:

SUMMARY OF RECORDED LESSONS

LESSON ONE	
Date and time of day:	
Grade level:	
Subject area:	
Specific student objective(s):	
Why this lesson was selected:	
LESSON TWO	
Date and time of day:	
Grade level:	
Subject area:	
Specific student objective(s):	
Why this lesson was selected:	

National Center for Urban School Transformation America's Best Urban Schools Award Application



School Name: _____

District Name: _____

America's Best Urban Schools Award Photograph Permission Form

Please print, sign and submit with your paper application and CD submission.

Please find enclosed a CD with the required 15-20 high-resolution .jpg digital photos taken for _____ School.

I verify that the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) has permission to use any of the photographs transmitted by our school.

- NCUST may use these pictures on its website, at its national symposium, in promotional materials, or in other ways it deems appropriate and consistent with the Center's mission.
- Parents have given permission for the use of any photographs that include images of their children.
- Adults (including faculty, staff, volunteers, and parents) have given permission for the use of any photographs that include their images.

By signing below, I agree to the above stated criteria.

Principal's printed name:		
Principal's signature:		Date: