

Exemplary Reading Program Award

Guidelines and Application Form

OVERVIEW: The Exemplary Reading Program Award is sponsored by the International Reading Association to recognize outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school). Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America. Each participating state and province can choose one winning school.

Each state/provincial council participating in the program will have an Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee. Not all states/provincial councils elect to participate in the program. The state/provincial committee will review applications and apply the criteria and guidelines listed here using a standardized scoring procedure. Selected schools will be visited by representatives of the state/provincial Exemplary Reading Committee. The name of the winning school and a description of the qualifying program will be sent to IRA by March 10.

OBJECTIVES: The program has five objectives: (1) to improve literacy in our society, (2) to recognize school staffs who demonstrate excellence in reading and literacy programs, (3) to encourage the development and refinement of exemplary reading/language arts programs, (4) to report to the public noteworthy efforts to improve reading/language arts, and (5) to disseminate specific information about high-quality programs so that other professionals can use it to improve their own instructional efforts.

CRITERIA:

1. All public, private, and parochial elementary and secondary schools are eligible for the award if the school has at least one IRA member.
2. The school must apply with its *entire* reading program, not just one segment (i.e., Title I, resource room, library/media, teacher, one grade, and the like).
3. The fully completed application form must be signed by the chief school officer (e.g., superintendent).
4. The winning program should serve as a model for other schools and teachers.
5. A school receiving the award cannot apply again within a period of five years.
6. A school is not eligible to apply if a current state or provincial council officer is employed in the school.

(continued)

INTERNATIONAL



Reading Association

800 BARKSDALE ROAD, PO BOX 8139
NEWARK, DE 19714-8139, USA (302) 731-1600
www.reading.org

Exemplary Reading Program Award

Guidelines

TIMELINE:	November 15	Applications must be postmarked.
	November 28	Applications must arrive at IRA headquarters. Faxed entries will not be accepted.
	February 1	Validated visits by state/provincial Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee members will be completed.
	March 1	State/provincial Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee chairs will notify IRA headquarters of winners.
	March 10	IRA headquarters will notify recipients of the award.

HOW TO

PARTICIPATE: To participate in the program, complete the attached application form. Then prepare a description of your program, applying specifically the 10 guidelines listed below. The description may be in any order, as long as **all** criteria are addressed. **Please limit the description to five pages.** As part of the description, please list the names and professional assignments of all those who were involved in completing the application. NOTE: Additional materials—such as books, journals, and newspapers—will not be considered as part of the application. However, you may want to display these items in your school if the state/provincial Exemplary Reading Program Award committee chooses to make a site visit.

10 GUIDELINES

TO FOLLOW: *For consideration as an Exemplary Reading Program your school should demonstrate that:*

1. The reading program is consistent with sound theory, research, and practice.
2. The reading program facilitates student learning.
3. Students have access to a wide variety of reading materials.
4. Students demonstrate success in reading.
5. Comprehension strategies are taught and applied across the curriculum.
6. Listening, speaking, viewing, and writing are integrated into and support the reading program.
7. Administrators and teachers provide leadership and vision for the building and/or district reading program.
8. The school and/or district offers support services to the program.
9. Literacy activities occur outside of school.
10. The community, including parents, is involved in the reading program.

Send your application form and program description to

**Exemplary Reading Program Award
International Reading Association
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139
Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA**

Applications must be postmarked by November 15 and arrive at IRA headquarters by November 28. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

DR-Date Received
SP-State or Province

Do not write in this section	
DR	SP

Exemplary Reading Program Award

Application Form

Year _____

1. Location of the Exemplary Reading Program

School Name _____

Principal's Name (type or print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Principal's Signature _____

(This signature must be included in order for application to be complete.)

2. Name of School District _____

3. Name and Signature of Administrator (e.g., Superintendent or Principal)

Name (type or print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Signature _____

(This signature must be included in order for application to be complete.)

4. IRA Member in the School

Name _____ IRA Membership # _____ Exp. Date _____

(Current IRA membership # must be included in order for application to be complete.)

5. Contact Person (the name of the individual to be contacted regarding this application)

Name _____ Position _____

6. Demographic Information

a. Is the school _____ Public _____ Private _____ Charter (please check one ✓)

b. Grade level(s) served _____

c. Approximate ethnic background of students in the school

_____ % Asian American _____ % African American _____ % Caucasian

_____ % Hispanic _____ % Native American _____ % Other

Other (please describe) _____

