

NMEA Exemplary Program Award for Model Schools, K-12 Areas, or Districts – Official Announcement and Application –

Purpose. The purpose of the NMEA Exemplary Program Award is to recognize Nebraska Pre-K through 12 public and private school music programs and their communities that have maintained a long and distinguished tradition of excellence in music education.

Selection Process. Schools may be nominated or nominate themselves using the criteria listed on this page, which will appear in each August and October issues of the Nebraska Music Educator. Nomination deadline will be February 1, for recognition at the subsequent NMEA In-service Conference/Clinic in November. Nominated programs and committees will be screened by a committee designated by the NMEA Executive Board. Nominations may be submitted by a music teacher, supervisor, coordinator, school district superintendent or other administrator (see nomination information below).

On-Site Visitation. Finalists for the award will receive on-site visits during March and early April from a three member evaluation team consisting of an NMEA Executive Board member, and two retired members who respectively represent instrumental, choral and elementary general music. The team will interview students, faculty, music teachers, administrators, school board members, community members, and observe classes and ensemble rehearsals during their one day visit. The on-site visitation will include an examination of district music curriculum documents for the inclusion of the National Standards. The nominated school may submit any additional materials for review by the visitation team as time permits.

Recommendations. The visitation team will recommend a school for recognition to the NMEA Executive Board who will make the final decision. Recommendations will be discussed and award(s) will be determined at the NMEA Executive Board retreat in late May/early June. Recipients will be notified immediately of their award, and representatives of the winning school district and their community will be invited to the NMEA Awards and Recognition Banquet in November for the presentation of their award.

Nomination Information. Please list the following:

- Name of school district or high school in K-12 area within a district or individual school.
- Name, addresses and titles of all building administrators.
- Name, title and address of district fine arts coordinator (if applicable).
- Name, title and address of district superintendent.
- Name and position of nominator.
- Nominator's address and phone number.

Specific Award Criteria. The specific criteria used in determining the award are based on the extent to which a unit – a school, K-12 area, or entire district – meets criteria for curriculum, staffing, scheduling, and facilities/equipment necessary for implementing the National Standards as articulated in the NAfME publication Opportunity to Learn.

Nominators should prepare a portfolio containing evidence of accomplishment in each category below (NOTE: It is not expected that the unit (school, area, or district) nominated will achieve excellence in all categories):

- Enrollment/Staffing/Scheduling – For each full-time music educator (**all of whom must be current members of NMEA**) in the unit nominated, list the highest degree held, courses taught (indicate select or non-select, if applicable), and enrollment subdivided by grade level for each course.
- Curriculum (**Objectives**) – Provide a brief summary of the unit's objectives for each course/grade level, including particularly those which are aligned with the National Standards and those which foster life-long learning and participation in music.
- Curriculum (**Product**) – Provide representative printed programs and a ten-minute tape recording/DC of the band, choral and string (if applicable) groups at all levels appropriate to the nomination from the past three years.
- Curriculum (**Process**) – Describe particularly unique or innovative teaching strategies.
- Curriculum (**Assessment**) – Describe procedures used for assessing the music program and summaries of assessment results for the last year.
- Curriculum (**Planning**) – Describe changes that are contemplated in the unit's music program over the next two years.
- Facilities – Describe facilities, including rehearsal and concert venue(s), practice space, storage, and technology space.
- Budget – Describe the unit's plan for purchasing and maintenance/repair/upgrade monies; inventory of supplies and departmental equipment; strategies for the development of large expenditures (e.g., band uniforms, choir robes, instruments, keyboards, computers, etc.), and sources/amounts of funding external to the unit over the past five years.
- Summary of Noteworthy Strengths– Describe what is unique about the program, i.e., what would make the program worthy of visitation by outside guests? Send complete nomination documents by **February 1** to:

Rex Barker
NMEA Awards Recognition
4204 South 148th St
Omaha NE 68137

Follow-up evaluative feedback from the visitation will be provided upon request by the NMEA Executive Board. Awards will be given based upon the strength of the nomination and results of the visitation. Multiple or no awards may occur in a given year.