Awards & Recognitions Programs

(Remember our Middle Level Distinguished Student Awards Celebrations for students!)

A+ Administrator

Purpose: NELMS seeks to honor administrators who value, understand and support effective middle level education that promotes powerful learning for young adolescents.

Selection Criteria:

- Understands how young adolescents learn
- Champions middle level education by:
  - actively promoting and advocating middle level education
  - building community support
  - recognizing middle level as a distinct entity of education
- Supports and models effective middle level philosophy
- Encourages professional development in middle level best practices
- Provides leadership and supervision of effective instructional practices and student outcomes

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Beane-Brodhagen "Exemplary Integrated Unit" Award

Purpose: NELMS seeks to identify educators who have developed and/or implemented creative and effective instructional/curricular strategies consistent with middle level education.

Selection Criteria Evidence of:

- High expectations for all students
- Demonstrates active learning by students and connects to community /real life applications
- Actively involves students in decision-making, choices of activities, and assessment
- Celebrates diversity
- Utilizes a variety of appropriate instructional techniques

Master in the Middle Award

Purpose: NELMS seeks to honor teachers who are devoted to young adolescents, committed to best middle practices, and who have taught for four (4) or more years.

Selection Criteria:

- Passionate about middle level education
- Currently teaching middle level students
- Serves as an educational leader
- Advocates for the middle level community
- Provides formal/informal mentoring to colleagues
- Models effective middle level instructional practices, such as:
  - Incorporating activity-based learning
  - Developing a sense of student ownership in their learning
  - Integrating higher order thinking
  - Fostering curriculum connections
  - Using a variety of assessment tools
  - Building relationships with students and families

Parent & Community Award

Purpose: NELMS seeks to honor parent/community groups that value, understand and support effective middle level education which promotes effective teaching and learning for young adolescents.

Selection Criteria:

- Understands and actively supports the development of young adolescents
- Champions middle level education by:
  - recognizing middle level as a distinct entity of education
  - actively promoting middle level activities and programs
  - building community support

Promising Practitioner Award

Purpose: NELMS seeks to honor teachers beginning their teaching career, who have one to three years of teaching experience.

Selection Criteria:

- Enjoys teaching middle level students
- Makes a positive difference in the school
- Fosters community connections
- Seeks professional development and implements innovative ideas
- Meets the needs of individual students, using effective middle level practices such as:
  - Incorporating activity-based learning
  - Developing a sense of student ownership in their learning
  - Integrating higher order thinking
  - Fostering curriculum connections

District Leadership Award

Purpose: NELMS seeks to honor superintendents, assistant superintendents and other district leadership positions who value, understand, and support effective middle level education.

Selection Criteria:

- Understands how young adolescents learn
- Champions middle level education by:
  - actively promoting middle level education
  - building community support
  - recognizing middle level as a distinct entity of education
- Supports effective middle level education
- Encourages professional development in middle level best practices

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Application Process: For more information about the application process and criteria, please visit https://www.nelms.org/awards-recognitions

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Spotlight School Award: Be Proud and Recognize Your School



The purpose of the Spotlight School Award is to recognize schools that have a record of effective teaching and learning for young adolescents and consistently implement middle level best practices. A NELMS Spotlight School is recognized for developing strong effective programs that reflect concepts contained in ***Turning Points 2000***, and ***This We Believe***, and current middle level state recommendations.