



Awards & Recognitions Programs

(Remember our Middle Level Distinguished Student Awards Celebrations for students!)
For more information, please visit <https://www.nelms.org/recognition>

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



Beane-Brodhagen Award

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



Superintendent Award

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

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



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.

Application Process: For more information about the application process and criteria, please visit <https://www.nelms.org/recognition>