



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SCHOOLS SEEKING THE A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

To be considered for the A+ School of Excellence™ Award, the following criteria must be met:

- The school must be a district public or public charter school with some combination of grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- School must be rated by the Arizona Department of Education's **most recent available ratings** as an "A" or "B" school and must demonstrate high student academic achievement or growth over time for all students through other assessments.
- The school must be in at least its **fifth full year of operation in its current (or similar) grade configuration** when the application is submitted. Schools who are unsure about this requirement may contact AEF to discuss.
- The school's principal must have completed at least **three consecutive full years** as leader of the applicant school when the application is submitted.
 - **Exceptions:** An exception may occur for schools who are renewing for a consecutive A+ Award if the following conditions are met: A renewal school may have a principal who has completed one full year at the time of application if the principal was already an administrative member at the school when the most recent A+ Award was granted AND was a member of the A+ application writing team for the most recent Award.

Schools with questions about this requirement or with extenuating circumstances are encouraged to contact AEF to discuss.

- The school or school district is not refusing Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district-wide compliance review.
- The OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated school or the district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan from the district to remedy the violation.
- The US Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the nominated school or the school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
- Current A+ School of Excellence schools may not re-apply before the end of their current application cycle. Please reference the A+ School of Excellence timelines found at: www.azedfoundation.org/a-schools