



# High Expectations for a global era

*Please join with other school communities in honoring outstanding educational leadership. Make this the year your district becomes involved in the National Superintendent of the Year Program.*

Over the last 23 years, the Superintendent of the Year Program has become widely acclaimed as the most prestigious honor a school system leader can attain. As we mark the beginning of a new decade, let us look forward with high hopes and a clear vision of how we can ensure schools graduate students who will be competitive in the global era.

## Looking to education for competitiveness in tomorrow's world

*"Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world."* — Maria Montessori

## New skills for the 21st century

Superintendents must map out a strategy to guarantee the learning schools deliver today will prepare our students for a bright future in a world that is changing at an ever-escalating rate. The new era will truly belong to those who can adapt and learn.

While the tech-savvy millennial generation is nimble with technical devices, many fear they lack the ability to apply these tools to learning. How well our students master 21st century skills will be pivotal to their success—and the nation's. The 3R's will always be with us, but for the global era, our expectations of students must include the 5Cs—critical thinking, creative problem solving, communications, collaboration and cross-cultural relationship building. It isn't just layering the 5Cs and technology over traditional core competencies, though. It's about totally integrating all these skills for success in an increasingly competitive world.

## Expecting the best from our students and schools

Too often, school districts expect too little from their students and their schools. Thus, too few of our young people graduate from high school ready for the competitive economy and complex society in their futures. All young people should have great life options. Their K-12 education must equip them with the tools they need to succeed whichever path they choose—the workforce, technical school or college.

It's time to ramp up expectations for students and schools and increase support to help meet them. The school systems leader's role is to define and set high standards for administrators, staff and teachers and hold them accountable for their performance.

Communities expect a lot from their schools, so it's vital that the superintendent engage the community in a conversation about what it wants students to know and be able to do. Those discussions highlight what must be done so that all students are ready for the realities in the coming era.

## Mapping out a future for all of our children

If we are true to the ideals of public education, educational opportunities will be available to all children, no matter the school's geographic location, demographic composition or economic tax base. That mission—to reach out to the schools' diverse populations to ensure all children learn—has possibly become the most challenging expectation your community has of your superintendent.

Parents rightfully expect that their children will receive the best possible instruction from skilled and motivated teachers. In turn, your superintendent must meet the expectations of the district's teaching staff by supporting their professional development to acquire the skill set to integrate new methods and technology. Teachers will then be well equipped and inspired to live up to the high expectations that every parent has for the child they send off to our schools.

## Selection Process and Criteria

Each candidate is judged on the following attributes and skills:

- Leadership for Learning – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system.
- Communication – strength in both personal and organizational communication.
- Professionalism – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team.
- Community Involvement – active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national and international issues.

Each state selects a superintendent to represent the state. Then a national blue-ribbon panel narrows the field to four. The National Superintendent of the Year is announced at the second general session of AASA's National Conference on Education in February. All state superintendents of the year are recognized during the session. A \$10,000 scholarship is awarded to a student in the high school from which the National Superintendent of the Year graduated.

## Nomination and Application Procedure

The program is open to all public school superintendents in the United States and overseas. To nominate your superintendent, fill out and return the adjacent form by July 30. This enables AASA to officially notify your superintendent that you have recommended him or her for the honor. Then, to apply, superintendents must complete the application forms (online at [www.aasa.org/SOY](http://www.aasa.org/SOY) or mailed to them at their request) and return them to AASA, postmarked by September 30.

School system leaders deserve our acclaim and the public's recognition. By participating in this program, you help showcase the accomplishments of the entire profession. Please give thoughtful consideration to nominating your superintendent.

Cosponsored by ARAMARK Education, ING Foundation and American Association of School Administrators



# Notice of Nomination

This form is also available online at [www.aasa.org/SOY](http://www.aasa.org/SOY)

The superintendent named below has shown outstanding leadership and is my nominee for the  
**2010 National Superintendent of the Year Program**

Please complete this form and send to AASA.

We will then notify your candidate of this nomination. Deadline: **July 30, 2009**

## Superintendent Information

Name

School System

Mailing Address

City, State, ZIP

Telephone (Office)

(Home)

Fax

E-mail

## Nominator Information

Name

School System

Mailing Address

City, State, ZIP

Telephone (Office)

(Home)

Fax

E-mail

## Application Form on the Web

The 2010 application forms will be posted online at [www.aasa.org/SOY](http://www.aasa.org/SOY) by May 15.

Applicants are able to download the forms to their computers, complete them, print and mail to AASA.

## For Further Information Contact:

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Darlene Pierce, Director  
**2010 National Superintendent  
of the Year Program**

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**2010 National Superintendent  
of the Year Program**



NOMINATION FORM INSIDE  
**Your invitation to join in recognizing  
excellence in school system leadership**



Nominate your candidate for the  
**2010 National Superintendent of the Year Program**

**High  
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