



AMLE Schools of Distinction Program Overview

Supporting middle grades educators to reach every student, grow professionally, and create great schools.





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Association for Middle Level Education is dedicated to helping middle school educators reach every student, grow professionally, and create great schools. We have established AMLE Schools of Distinction as a school recognition and improvement process that guides schools toward full implementation of research-based best practices.

The program is grounded in *The Successful Middle School: This We Believe*, the fifth edition of our landmark, research-based position paper which outlines the essential attributes and characteristics of effective middle grades schools.

WHY AMLE SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION?



AMLE established the Schools of Distinction Program to

- Recognize and celebrate schools that are actively implementing the essential attributes and characteristics of middle grades schools.
- Provide ALL schools that support young adolescents with the resources to accomplish their continuous improvement journeys.
- Create a network of schools that can learn from and support each other.
- Highlight for our communities the exceptional work that takes place every day in middle level education.

APPLICATION PROCESS

01

Complete the Successful Middle School Assessment and receive your comprehensive report.

02

Complete an intent to apply letter, available at amle.org/SOD

03

Create school improvement goals as a team and complete the application

04

Participate in a virtual school visit conducted by AMLE evaluators.



Recognized schools receive a banner, plaque, and the opportunity to present and be celebrated at the AMLE Annual Conference. Most importantly, all schools receive coaching and support through a continuous improvement roadmap designed around research-based best practices. Schools of Distinction contribute to AMLE's growing PD library and other leadership opportunities.

2024 TIMELINE FOR APPLICANT SCHOOLS

Feb. 28, 2024

Yearly deadline to submit application to be recognized as a School of Distinction in that same calendar year.

March

Applicant schools are assigned a review team. The review team may be comprised of local and non-local representatives. To make the process equitable across applicants, all evaluations will be completed virtually.

April – May

School evaluations are conducted by the AMLE evaluation team. Evaluations may consist of multiple virtual interviews with representatives from the school community.

June 30

Schools are notified of the outcome of their applications. If successful, the recognition lasts for a 4-year period with data updates required yearly. If unsuccessful, the school is eligible to receive free coaching and may reapply in 2 years.

August

Newly recognized schools are invited to submit a session proposal to present at the AMLE Annual Conference. Schools are encouraged but not required to attend the conference.

Nov., 2024

Newly selected Schools of Distinction are recognized in a special ceremony at the AMLE annual conference.

READY TO GET STARTED?

For more than 50 years, AMLE has been the premier association helping middle grades educators reach every student, grow professionally, and create great schools. Our membership is comprised of more than 35,000 principals, teachers, counselors, central office personnel, professors, community leaders, and college students.

For more information about AMLE Schools of Distinction or to schedule your Successful Middle School Assessment contact Katie Powell, AMLE Director for Middle Level Programs at kpowell@amle.org.

