



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is The Broad Prize for Urban Education?

The \$1 million Broad Prize for Urban Education, established in 2002, is the largest education prize in the country given to school districts. The Broad Prize is awarded each year to honor urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students.

What are the goals of The Broad Prize?

The Broad Prize for Urban Education has four goals:

- Reward districts that improve achievement levels of disadvantaged students.
- Restore the public's confidence in our nation's public schools by highlighting successful urban districts.
- Create competition and provide incentives for districts to improve.
- Showcase the best practices of successful districts.

Who are the finalists for the 2006 Broad Prize?

This year's finalists are:

- Boston Public Schools
- Bridgeport Public Schools, Conn.
- Jersey City Public Schools, N.J.
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- New York City Department of Education

This is the fifth year Boston has been a finalist, and the second year for New York City.

How is the winner of The Broad Prize for Urban Education selected?

The Broad Education Foundation works with the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) to manage The Broad Prize selection process. The 2006 selection process involved four steps:

- (1) 100 urban school districts were identified as eligible candidates for the Prize, based on size, low-income enrollment, minority enrollment, and urban environment.
- (2) A Review Board of 16 prominent education leaders from across the country analyzed extensive quantitative data and used their collective knowledge and experience to determine the finalists.
- (3) A team of experienced researchers and practitioners conducted site visits to each finalist district to gather additional quantitative and qualitative data.
- (4) A Selection Jury comprised of eight nationally prominent business, government and public service leaders reviewed the statistical data and site visit analysis for each district and selected the winner.

Can districts apply for The Broad Prize?

No. The 100 urban school districts identified as eligible candidates for the Prize are automatically considered.

What data is considered to determine the finalists and the winner?

Both the Review Board and the Selection Jury consider the following:

- Performance results on mandated state tests in reading and math for elementary, middle and high schools.
- Performance of a district compared with its own prior performance and compared with expected performance for similar districts (based on poverty levels) in the state.
- The reduction of achievement gaps between ethnic groups and between low-income and non-low-income students.
- Graduation rate: using enrollment data provided by the districts, the graduation rate is then calculated based on the Manhattan Institute methodology.
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) state average performance and improvement.
- Advanced Placement exams passed and participation rates.
- SAT and ACT scores and participation rates.
- Student demographic data (income, language, ethnicity).

The Review Board looks at the data, discusses the results and determines the finalists. The Selection Jury looks at the data on the finalists, as well as at qualitative reports on the districts prepared during the site visits. There is no formula to choose the finalists.

What's involved in the site visits?

The qualitative analysis of finalist districts is based on NCEA's *Best Practice Framework* that categorizes district instructional and organizational practices into five key categories:

1. Curriculum and academic goals
2. Staff selection, leadership and capacity building
3. Instructional programs, practices and arrangements
4. Monitoring, analysis and use of data
5. Recognition, interventions and adjustments

The site visits gather evidence of the five best practices areas at the district, school and classroom level. The teams interview the district superintendent, school board president, union leaders, parent and community representatives, conduct classroom observations and attend focus groups with new and experienced principals and teachers, all during a three-day visit.

How will the districts use the money?

The \$1 million award funds scholarships for graduating high school seniors to attend college or other post-secondary training. The winning district will receive \$500,000 in scholarships; the four finalists will each receive \$125,000 in scholarships.

How are the scholarship recipients selected? How much are the scholarships?

The 2006 Broad Prize scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who graduate in 2007 and demonstrate significant financial need and a record of academic improvement during their high school career. Seniors from each of the winning and finalist districts are eligible for two- or four-year scholarships depending on the type of higher education institution they choose to attend. Students who enroll in four-year colleges receive \$10,000 scholarships paid out over four years (\$2,500 per year). Students who enroll in two-year colleges receive \$2,500 scholarships paid out over two years (\$1,250 per year). The scholarship selection and disbursement process is

jointly managed by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and by Scholarship and Recognition Programs, a program of The College Board administered by ETS.

What school districts have won The Broad Prize in the past?

The inaugural Broad Prize winner was the Houston Independent School District in 2002. In 2003, the winner was the Long Beach Unified School District, in 2004, the winner was the Garden Grove Unified School District, and last year the winner was Norfolk Public Schools.

What is NCEA?

Based in Austin, Texas, the National Center for Educational Accountability is a collaborative effort of the Education Commission of the States, the University of Texas at Austin, and Just for the Kids to improve learning through the effective use of school and student data and the identification of best practices. NCEA's *Best Practice Framework* provides an organizational schema to examine the practices of consistently high-performing school systems in a variety of settings. NCEA's Internet address is www.just4kids.org.

What is The Broad Foundation?

The Broad Foundation is a Los Angeles-based venture philanthropic organization established in 1999 by Eli and Edythe Broad. Eli Broad, who founded two Fortune 500 companies over a five-decade business career (KB Home and SunAmerica), created The Broad Foundation to dramatically improve student achievement in urban public school districts through better governance, management, labor relations and competition. In addition to The Broad Prize, the Foundation's other major initiatives include The Broad Superintendents Academy, a ten-month executive management program to train working CEOs and other top executives from business, non-profit, military, government and education backgrounds to lead urban public school systems; The Broad Residency, a two-year management development program that trains emerging business leaders for senior management positions in urban school districts; and The Broad Institute for School Boards, an annual training program for newly elected school board members designed to increase student achievement through improved governance. The Broad Foundation's Internet address is www.broadfoundation.org.