



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is The Broad Prize?**

The \$2 million Broad Prize, established by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation in 2002, is the largest education award in the country given to school districts. The Broad Prize is awarded each year to honor the school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students.

### **What are the goals of The Broad Prize?**

The Broad Prize 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 districts.
- Create competition and provide incentives for districts to improve.
- Showcase the best practices of successful districts.

### **Who is the winner of the 2010 Broad Prize?**

Gwinnett County Public Schools outside Atlanta. Gwinnett was a first-time Broad Prize finalist in 2009.

### **Who were the finalists for the 2010 Broad Prize?**

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina
- Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland
- Socorro Independent School District in Texas
- Ysleta Independent School District in Texas

Charlotte-Mecklenburg was a finalist for The Broad Prize in 2004, and this is the second consecutive year Socorro was a finalist. Montgomery County and Ysleta are first-time Broad Prize finalists.

### **Can districts apply for or be nominated for The Broad Prize?**

No. One hundred of the country's largest districts that also serve significant percentages of low-income and minority students are automatically eligible for The Broad Prize each year. These 100 districts are automatically analyzed and considered anew each year based on publicly available data.

### **Who chooses the finalists?**

A review board of 18 prominent education experts from across the country analyze the student achievement data collected by MPR Associates, a national education research consulting firm, on the 100 largest urban school districts. They then select the five finalist urban school districts that showed the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students. For a full list of review board members, please visit [http://broadprize.org/about/decision\\_makers/review\\_board.html](http://broadprize.org/about/decision_makers/review_board.html).

### **Who chooses the winner?**

A selection jury comprised of eight nationally prominent business, government and public service leaders, including three former U.S. secretaries of education in the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations chose the winner. The selection jury reviews, analyzes and discusses the extensive student achievement data that were presented to the review board and the subsequent qualitative reports on district-wide policies and practices that affect teaching and learning in the five finalist school districts (the reports are prepared by RMC Research Corporation, an education consulting company). The selection jury then chooses the school district that best demonstrates the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students as the winner of The Broad Prize. For a full list of selection jury members, please visit:

[http://broadprize.org/about/decision\\_makers/selection\\_jury.html](http://broadprize.org/about/decision_makers/selection_jury.html).

[*Note: The Broad Foundation, MPR Associates and RMC Research Corporation do not play a role in voting for the finalists or the winner.*]

### **What data are considered to determine the finalists and the winner?**

No formula is used to choose either the finalists or the winner. Members of the selection jury and review board rely on their analysis of publicly available data, their professional judgment, experience and mutual discussion. The selection jury and the review board consider the following data:

- Performance and improvement results on mandated state tests in reading and math for elementary, middle and high schools.
- Performance and improvement of the district compared with expected results for similar districts (based on poverty levels) in the state.
- Performance and improvement of the district compared with results for the rest of the state.
- Performance and improvement of the district relative to other districts in the state.
- The reduction and magnitude of achievement gaps between ethnic groups and between low-income and non-low-income students.
- Graduation rates calculated using the latest enrollment data available from the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data (CCD) according to three different methods: the Average Freshman Graduation Rates (AFGR), the Urban Institute Graduation Rate (Cumulative Promotion Index or CPI), and the Manhattan Institute Graduation Rate (Greene's Graduation Indicator or CGI).
- Advanced Placement exam participation and passing rates.
- SAT and ACT exam participation rates and scores.
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results.
- District demographic data (e.g., student enrollment, income, language, special education, ethnicity).

### **What was involved in the site visits?**

A team of experienced researchers and practitioners led by RMC Research Corporation, an education consulting company, conducts site visits in each finalist district to gather qualitative data. The site visit team analyzes finalist district policies and practices that affect teaching and learning, according to *The Broad Prize Framework for School District Excellence*, a rubric for evaluating the quality of district-wide policies and practices. The criteria, available at [www.broadprize.org/resources/tools.html](http://www.broadprize.org/resources/tools.html), are grounded in research-based school and district practices found to be effective in three key areas: teaching and learning, district leadership, and operations and support systems. The site visit teams gather evidence through analysis of extensive documentation, classroom visits and through interviews with district leadership, school board leaders, union leaders, principals, teachers, staff, students and parent and community representatives during a four-day visit in the spring.

**How will the districts use the money?**

The \$2 million Broad Prize goes directly to graduating high school seniors to attend college or other post-secondary training. The winning district receives \$1 million in scholarships, and the four finalist districts each receive \$250,000 in scholarships.

**How are the scholarship recipients selected? How large are the scholarships?**

The 2010 Broad Prize scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who graduate in 2011, demonstrate significant financial need and have a record of academic improvement during their high school career. Seniors from 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 up to \$20,000 scholarships paid out over four years (\$5,000 per year). Students who enroll in two-year colleges receive up to \$5,000 scholarships paid out over two years (\$2,500 per year). The scholarship selection and disbursement process is managed by Scholarship America

**Which school districts have won The Broad Prize in the past?**

- 2009 – Aldine Independent School District in Texas
- 2008 – Brownsville Independent School District in Texas
- 2007 – New York City Department of Education
- 2006 – Boston Public Schools
- 2005 – Norfolk Public Schools, Va.
- 2004 – Garden Grove Unified School District, Calif.
- 2003 – Long Beach Unified School District, Calif.
- 2002 – Houston Independent School District

**What is MPR Associates?**

One of the nation's leading education research and consulting firms, MPR Associates, based in Berkeley, Calif., manages the rigorous and comprehensive quantitative data collection and analysis process for The Broad Prize. For more information, please visit [www.mprinc.com](http://www.mprinc.com).

**What is RMC Research Corporation?**

RMC Research Corporation is a nationally recognized research and professional services organization. Using a research-based rubric for district quality that was developed exclusively for The Broad Prize, RMC leads a site visit team of researchers and practitioners through the collection and analysis of interviews, documents and observations of Broad Prize finalist district practices. For more information, please visit [www.rmcresearchcorporation.com](http://www.rmcresearchcorporation.com).

**What is The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation?**

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is a national venture philanthropy established by entrepreneur and philanthropist Eli Broad to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. The Broad Foundation's education work is focused on dramatically improving K-12 public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition. For more information, please visit [www.broadeducation.org](http://www.broadeducation.org).

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