

Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Broad Prize for Urban Education?

The \$2 million **Broad Prize for Urban Education**, 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 urban 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 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 is the winner of the 2009 Broad Prize?

- Aldine Independent School District outside Houston

Who were the finalists for the 2009 Broad Prize?

- Broward County Public Schools in Florida.
- Gwinnett County Public Schools, outside Atlanta
- Long Beach Unified School District in California
- Socorro Independent School District in El Paso

Long Beach won The Broad Prize in 2003 and returned as a finalist in 2008 and 2007 when the district was again eligible. Broward is a two-time finalist, and this is the first year Gwinnett and Socorro have been 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 20 prominent education experts from across the country analyzes 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.

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 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 **SchoolWorks**, an educational 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.

[*Note: The Broad Foundation, MPR Associates and SchoolWorks 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 results on mandated state tests in reading and math for elementary, middle and high schools.
- Student achievement data compared with the district's own prior performance, compared with the rest of the state, and compared with expected performance for similar districts (based on poverty levels) in each district's respective state.
- The reduction of achievement gaps between ethnic groups and between low-income and non-low-income students.
- Graduation rate: The Average Freshman Graduation Rates (AFGR), the Urban Institute Graduation Rates (Cumulative Promotion Index or CPI), and the Manhattan Institute Graduation Rates (Greene's Graduation Indicator or CGI), all calculated using the latest enrollment data available from the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data (CCD).
- Advanced Placement exam participation and passing rates.
- SAT and ACT exam participation rates and scores.
- Student demographic data (e.g. student poverty levels, limited English and special education information, ethnicity).
- Adequate Yearly Progress as called for under the No Child Left Behind Act.

What was involved in the site visits?

A team of experienced researchers and practitioners led by SchoolWorks, an educational 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, using the *SchoolWorks Quality Criteria Developed for The Broad Prize for Urban Education*. The criteria, available at 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 and parent and community representatives during a three-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 2009 **Broad Prize scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors who graduate in 2010, 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).

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

- 2008 - Brownsville Independent School District, 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, Berkeley, Calif.-based **MPR Associates** manages the rigorous and comprehensive quantitative data collection and analysis process for The Broad Prize. For more information, please visit www.mprinc.com.

What is SchoolWorks?

SchoolWorks is an educational consulting company based in Beverly, Mass. Using a research-based rubric for district quality, SchoolWorks 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.schoolworks.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 urban K-12 public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition. For more information, please visit www.broadfoundation.org.

###