



BACKGROUND ON THE KSBA *PEAK* AWARD

The *PEAK* (*Public Education Achieves in Kentucky*) Award was established in 1997 by the board of directors of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) for two purposes: 1) to bring about greater attention to noteworthy efforts by public schools aimed specifically at enhancing the learning skills of students, and 2) to promote the positive impact of public elementary and secondary education in this state.

Twice each school year, KSBA accepts nominations from public school systems for consideration for the *PEAK* Award. The selection of the *PEAK* Award recipient district will be announced in the KSBA magazine, the *Kentucky School Advocate*, followed by the presentation of a unique, engraved statue during a special visit by KSBA representatives to the district or school honored. All *PEAK* Award programs are invited to be "presenters of honor" in clinics at the KSBA's annual conference. Additionally, KSBA formally endorses *PEAK* Award recipients to be featured at a future annual conference of the National School Boards Association.

Nominations are made by the local board of education and the district administration. Only programs specifically designed to improve the academic achievement of students are considered for the *PEAK Award*. Nominated programs may be districtwide, shared by multiple schools or based at an individual school. Programs already must be in operation; proposals will not be considered as eligible until implemented. Nominations consist of:

- A program outline with information on its objectives, number of students involved, funding, school board involvement, plus an assessment of the progress of the program since its inception towards those stated goals.
- Two letters of endorsement, specifically listing the writers' reasons for the endorsement, from: a) Teacher (or teachers) involved in the program; b) student(s) or parent(s) of students who have benefited from the nominated program.

Nominated programs not selected in their original cycle automatically will be reconsidered in the next cycle by new panel of judges. Programs not selected after two cycles may be renominated, but will not automatically continue under consideration. No school district will be eligible to receive the *PEAK* Award more than once every 10 years.

This year the judges' panel consists of two KSBA board members, a representative from the Kentucky PTA, a representative from two previous *PEAK*-winning school districts and a KSBA staff member.

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