

*Wisconsin Association of School Councils &
Association of Wisconsin School Administrators*

Spirit of Excellence Award

The Spirit of Excellence program honors Wisconsin schools that achieve excellence in leadership development, school spirit, sportsmanship and service to school and community. COVID -19 has created a challenging year for students, educators, and schools across the country. Despite the challenges they faced, perseverance and positivity prevailed. We want to honor ALL that inspired so many!

Each year, a selection committee consisting of members from WASC, AWSA, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association, Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association, and Rotary selects 1 middle school to receive the State Recipient and 1 school as the Runner – up.

Recognition is TBD based on COVID restrictions and the ability to participate in large gatherings.

To be eligible, schools must be a member of WIAA and WASC and submit a portfolio that demonstrates achievement in each of three key dimensions in a calendar year beginning February 1.



Spirit of Excellence Instructions

To be eligible for the Spirit of Excellence Award, follow these instructions:

- Download the following materials from www.wasc.org/spirit
 - Application Form
 - Instructions, which includes descriptions and rubrics
 - Template – Leadership
 - Template – Sportsmanship
 - Template – Service
- Complete the application form. This will serve as the title page for your portfolio.
- Document your school's activities and achievements using the templates for Leadership, Sportsmanship and Service dimensions.
 - You may make as many copies as needed, but each template should detail one activity or achievement.
 - The Rubrics page will give you guidelines on how each dimension will be scored.
 - All activities must have taken place between February 1 and January 31.
 - Be careful not to exceed the maximum number of activities in the rubrics. Focus on your most prestigious, memorable activities.
- Some rubrics require artifacts. These may be submitted on paper or scanned and included with the portfolio. Make sure each artifact is clear regarding the dimension it addresses.

Submitting your materials:

- **All materials must be received by February 1.**
- The portfolio should be submitted in electronic form as a pdf to Michelle McGrath at michelle@wasc.org.
- An email confirmation of receipt will be sent to the address listed on the application. If no confirmation is received within three days of submission, please contact the state office.

Service to School and Community Dimension

1. **Service to School and Community**– Showcase your top organized school group service projects benefiting the school and community, i.e. Campus Clean-up, virtual food drive, writing letters to elderly, chalk drawing in driveways, etc.
2. **Description** – Provide a description in 150 words or less of each program including the timeline for the program and a reflection of the program. Please know that the reflection piece is a crucial part in effective leadership practice and will be weighted heavily.
3. **Artifacts** – Provide artifacts that can validate your engagement in school and community service. They need to confirm specific community service events facilitated by the school and the impact these events had on your school and community. These include letters of reference, newspaper articles, blog posts, pictures, thank-you’s, etc.

Service to School/Community Rubrics

	10	8	5	3	1
Service to School & Community	Documentation of 3 projects	Documentation of 3 projects	Documentation of 1 project		
Description of Activity	Provides a detailed description of each project including timeline and reflection	Provides a detailed description of more than half of projects listed including all of criteria listed	Provides a detailed description of less than half of projects listed including all of criteria listed	Provides only a general overview of all projects listed	Provides little to no description of projects listed
Reflection	Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for each activity	Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for some of the activities	Provides a brief reflection for each activity	Provides a brief reflection for some of the activities	Provides no reflections
Artifacts	Includes 3 artifacts	Includes at least 2 artifacts	Includes at least 1 artifact		

Sportsmanship/Spirit & Positive School Culture Dimension

1. **Sportsmanship/Spirit & School Culture Programs** – Showcase your top organized school programs that encourage good sportsmanship and/or positive school culture, , i.e. Announcements before games, virtual spirit weeks, banners for 8th graders, drive-in 8th grade graduation/recognition, etc.
2. **Description of Programs** - Provide a detailed description in 150 words or less of each program including the timeline for the program and a reflection of the program. Please know that the reflection piece is a crucial part in effective leadership practice and will be weighted heavily.
3. **Artifacts** – Provide at least 3 artifacts validating your encouragement and active modeling of good sportsmanship and/or positive school culture. These include letters of endorsement of good sportsmanship, newspaper articles, blog posts, and/or pictures of students engaging in positive school culture initiatives.

School Culture and Sportsmanship Rubrics

	10	8	5	3	1
Sportsmanship & School Culture Programs	Documentation of 3 programs	Documentation of 2 programs	Documentation of 1 program		
Description of Activity	Provides a detailed description of each program including timeline and well thought out reflection	Provides a detailed description of more than half of programs listed including all of criteria listed	Provides a detailed description of less than half of programs listed including all of criteria listed	Provides only a general overview of all programs listed	Provides little to no description of programs listed
Reflection	Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for each activity	Provides a detailed, well thought out reflection for some of the activities	Provides a brief reflection for each activity	Provides a brief reflection for some of the activities	Provides no reflections
Artifacts	Includes at least 3 artifacts	Includes at least 2 artifacts	Includes at least 1 artifact		

Leadership Dimension

1. ***Perseverance Demonstrated in Academics*** – For example: (1) Examples of how teachers/support staff/administrators met the challenges of on-line learning (2) Honor Roll students (3) Creative schedules used during the pandemic.
2. ***Perseverance Demonstrated by Students*** –For example: (1) Creative ways students spread positivity to their fellow students (2) Examples of how students connected during the quarantine, (3) Examples of how students embraced the changes of hybrid learning at their schools , etc.
3. ***Perseverance Demonstrated in Fine Arts*** –For example – (1) Participation/recognition of Fine Arts programming in winter 2019. (2) Creative ways your school showcased band, theater, etc. in the virtual world.
4. ***Dedication to Leadership Development Outside of School*** – Documentation and a brief description of this criterion must be submitted by category. For example – (1) WASC Coast to Coast Leadership (2) WASC Virtual State Conference (3) Other virtual options attended by students (4) IGNITE 2020
5. ***Portfolio*** – Each section of the Spirit of Excellence Portfolio must have a single title page, which includes the name of the school and a list of students that participated in the preparation/completion of the portfolio. It must be submitted in the writable pdf format or computer processed. It must follow the order of the attached rubric. If done independently of the pdf format, please make sure to include divider pages between sections

Leadership Rubrics

	10	8	5	3	1
<i>Perseverance demonstrated in Academics</i>	Documentation of 3	Documentation of 2	Documentation of 1		
<i>Perseverance demonstrated by Students</i>	Documentation of 3	Documentation of 2	Documentation of 1		
<i>Perseverance demonstrated in Fine Arts</i>	Documentation of 3	Documentation of 2	Documentation of 1		
<i>Dedication to Leadership Development in and Outside of School</i>	Provides more than 3 leadership venues for students and a detailed description of each event	Provides more than 2 leadership venues for students and a brief description of each event	Provides more than 1 leadership venue for students and a brief description of each event		
<i>Portfolio</i>	Follows correct structure, professional, and organized	Follows correct structure but lacks individuality	Somewhat follows correct structure, professional and organized	Somewhat follows correct structure but lacks individuality	Does not follow correct structure