

2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning

In recognition of exemplary technology practices engaging students today and preparing them for tomorrow



Honoring School Districts and Their Technology Champions

Entries due October 15, 2010

Proudly sponsored by:
American Association of School Administrators and Lightspeed Systems



2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning Application Form

Sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and Lightspeed Systems

Note: Fill in this Application Form, print it and include it with your completed application. Send the completed application form, CD, executive summary and all supporting documents by October 15, 2010, to:

**2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning
American Association of School Administrators
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22203**

Information is available online at www.aasa.org/LightspeedAward.aspx or
www.lightspeedsystems.com/AASA-Award.aspx

All entries become part of the AASA resource files and will not be returned. Files may be used for AASA promotional purposes.

Name of School District

Superintendent

Technology Contact

District website

City

State

Zip

E-mail

Phone

Fax

Use the space below to give a *brief* description of the school district in which you are working.

District: Suburban Rural Urban Enrollment Grade span

2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning

Application Instructions

Sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and Lightspeed Systems

The 2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning, sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and Lightspeed Systems, recognizes the teamwork of administrators and their technology champions who demonstrate visionary leadership towards a dynamic, district-wide digital learning culture.

Eligibility

- Any K-12 public school district in the United States or Puerto Rico may apply for this award.
- Technology activities related to this award must have been implemented during the three prior academic years (2007-2008, 2008- 2009, 2009-2010).
- Award recipients are expected to attend the 2011 AASA National Conference on Education in Denver, Colo., Feb. 17-19, 2011, where the awards will be presented.

Award Criteria

The *2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning* honors districts for excellence in promoting informed practices, productive collaborations, sustained improvement and an evolving awareness of its responsibilities to ensure safe, equitable and ethical uses of learning technology. Each school district is judged on the following criteria:

Digital Portfolio

Each applicant district is judged on a portfolio that demonstrates excellence in digital learning. The portfolio may be submitted on **one** CD and include media that show examples of the following:

- Digital projects, presentations, etc. created by individual students
- Digital projects, presentations, etc. created collaboratively by groups of students
- Teachers using technology in learner-centered activities
- Technology meeting the needs of diverse learners
- District-level employees and administrators using technology and mentoring school-level staff
- Digital collaboration at the district or administrative level

Technology may include, but is not limited to, desktop and laptop computing, handheld devices, GPS positioning tools, probeware, Web 2.0 applications, digital cameras and video, etc.

NOTE: This award is not about how much technology a district may have, but how a district uses the technology. Districts should select media that show engagement and learning.

Support Material

Districts may also include the following support materials for the judges to consider:

- Strategic plan for continuing technology integration and associated professional development
- Evidence of parent and community participation in the vision and support of a digital teaching and learning environment

- Measurable results and qualitative descriptions of learning success attributable to technology integration
- Demonstrable effects in the community of district technology programs (these may include but are not limited to school-community collaborations, higher numbers of tech-savvy graduates entering the workplace or higher education, passage of bond measures, etc.)

Executive Summary

Include an executive summary:

- Describe how district personnel work together to provide an exemplary digital learning environment.
- Explain the importance of items included in the digital portfolio.
- Summary should not exceed four single-sided pages.

Selection Process

- AASA invites a panel of independent judges to evaluate the entries and determine three award recipients.
- Judges use the *2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning* rubric to evaluate entries. The rubric can be downloaded by clicking www.aasa.org/LightspeedAward.aspx or www.lightspeedsystems.com/AASA-Award.aspx

Application Procedure

- Only one application may be submitted per school system.
- A complete award application includes the following:
 - A completed application form
 - A digital portfolio
 - Support material
 - An executive summary
- **Deadline: Applications must be postmarked on or before October 15, 2010**
- Submit completed application to:

2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning
 American Association of School Administrators
 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 700
 Arlington, VA 22203-1730

Recognition

- Three districts will be selected for recognition and awards:
 1. One district will receive a November Learning Review by the Alan November Learning team. The November Learning Review provides the school district with custom-designed best practice strategies for teaching and learning and defines clear steps of how to integrate and align technology across the curriculum. The Alan November team will:
 - Meet with the district's administrative team
 - Meet with various groups of teachers, students and parents

- Observe a cross section of classrooms in major subject areas (Elementary and Secondary)
 - Assess technology infrastructure
 (See details at <http://novemberlearning.com/services/nl-review>)
 - 2. A Lightspeed Systems Web Access Manager subscription will be provided to one school site selected by the district. Product license and training will be included.
 - 3. Lightspeed Systems will provide one conference registration for the 2011 Building Learning Communities Conference in Boston, MA, three nights' lodging and a \$500 travel allocation.
- The selected districts will be notified by December 6, 2010.
 - The *2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning* recipients will be honored at the AASA National Conference on Education in February in Denver, Colo. and receive their awards from Alan November, national technology expert and author.

Timeline

August 1, 2010	Application available on AASA and Lightspeed Systems websites
October 15, 2010	Applications due to AASA
October 2010	Applications sent to panel of judges
By late November, 2010	Winners selected
December 6, 2010	Winners notified
February 17-19, 2011	The award recipients are honored at the AASA National Conference on Education in Denver

Available Resources

- [The ISTE National Educational Technology Standards \(NETS\) for Administrators](#)
- [The ISTE National Educational Technology Standards \(NETS\) for Teachers](#)
- [The ISTE National Educational Technology Standards \(NETS\) for Students](#)
- [The Partnership for 21st Century Skills](#)

For questions or information contact:

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 Arlington, VA 22203-1730

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2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning

Rubric

Sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and Lightspeed Systems

While technology can be integrated into education in numerous ways to meet a variety of learning goals, the following rubric provides a few examples along the continuum of implementation and describes the exemplary implementation judges will be seeking.

Award Criteria Examples	Emerging	In Process	Exemplary
Informed Practice	<p>Students use technology for prescribed assignments or for drill and practice</p> <p>Technology is used primarily for gathering information</p> <p>Technology skills are taught out of context of educational uses</p>	<p>Students and teachers are using productivity tools (spreadsheets, presentation tools, etc.) alongside prescribed learning tools</p> <p>Technology use begins to be creative (using graphic organizers to visualize problems, brainstorm, etc.) but many activities could be done just as well without technology</p> <p>Teachers encourage students to use technology in a variety of ways, both in and out of the classroom</p>	<p>Used daily, technology becomes an integrated part of the learning environment rather than an “extra”</p> <p>Students use technology to construct and share their own ideas, and publish their work for a world audience</p> <p>Teachers and students use technology to problem-solve, investigate, and innovate in authentic, real-world situations</p>
Productive Collaborations	<p>Students generally work alone</p> <p>Collaborations are limited to getting help from other students who are more skilled technology users or working in assigned groups to produce a traditional report</p>	<p>Students begin to use communication tools (email, social networking) to enhance information gathering</p> <p>Teachers begin to develop class websites to enhance communication with the home</p>	<p>Both teachers and students use interactive whiteboards, online collaboration tools, Web 2.0 applications or other means to establish an active learning community that taps the shared knowledge and experiences of outside experts and groups at a distance</p> <p>Teachers explore their curricula for ways to integrate collaboration tools to support global understanding</p>

Sustained Improvement	Use of technology is limited to what was taught in initial training or “one shot” professional development	Technology users within district begin to examine technology successes and failures to make future purchasing decisions Teachers share ideas for technology integration in regularly scheduled meetings, newsletters, etc.	District makes use of technology coaches, local experts, ongoing professional development, and attendance at technology conferences to ensure the growth and development of technology integration and innovation
Evolving awareness of responsibilities to ensure safe, equitable and ethical uses of learning technology	Acceptable use policy is enforced via limited web access only; students rarely cite information gathered from web resources	Students are generally responsible digital citizens, based on an understanding of district acceptable use policies, but their behavior reflects respect for rules more than understanding the necessity for such rules	Teachers and administrators demonstrate responsible technology uses and frequently engage students in conversations and situations to ensure their understanding

The *2011 District Excellence Award for Digital Learning* is proudly sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and Lightspeed Systems.

APPLY TODAY!

Completed applications due: October 15, 2010.

Application and details at:

www.aasa.org/LightspeedAward.aspx

or

www.lightspeedsystems.com/AASA-Award.aspx