



Private/Non-Public Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools Application

Private/Non-Public School Nomination Process

Private/Non-public schools are eligible for the Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon recognition if they meet the following criteria:

- 1) *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools: “Achievement gap closing” means:*
 - a. The school’s enrollment consists of at least 30 percent disadvantaged students.
 - b. The achievement of the school’s students in the most recently completed school year tested places the school in the top 30 percent in the nation in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics as measured by a nationally normed test.
 - c. Disaggregated results for historically underserved student groups, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds, must be similar to the results for all students tested.
 - d. For the most recent year in which graduation rates are available, the graduation rate for nonpublic high schools must be 95% or higher.

In addition to meeting the above student performance requirements, a nominated school must, in most cases, have at least 100 students enrolled and have assessment data for at least 10 students in each tested grade for both reading (or English language arts) and mathematics.

A student from a “*disadvantaged background*” may include economically disadvantaged students, that is, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals; students with disabilities; students who are limited English proficient; migrant students; and/or students receiving services under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools Program

Official School Name (Must match how it is listed in EdNA):

AUN Number:

School Mailing Address:

City:

State: PA

Zip Code:

Website:

Name of Principal (Principal must be listed in EdNA):

Principal Phone Number:

Principal Email Address:

Name of Education Director (Education Director must be listed in EdNA):

Education Director Phone Number:

Education Director Email Address:

Part I - Eligibility Certification

1. The school configuration must include one or more of the grades K-12. Schools located on the same campus (physical location and mailing address) must apply as an entire school (i.e. K-8; 6-12; K-12 school). Two (or more) schools located on separate campuses must apply individually even if they have the same principal/Education Director. A single school located on multiple campuses with one principal/Education Director must apply as an entire school.
2. The school has been in existence for five full years and grades participating in statewide assessments must have been part of the school for at least the past three years.
3. The nominated school has not received the National Blue Ribbon Schools or Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools award in the past five years.
4. The nominated school has no history of testing irregularities, nor have charges of irregularities been brought against the school at the time of nomination. If irregularities are later discovered and proven by the state, the Pennsylvania Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a school's application and/or rescind a school's award.
5. The nominated school has not been identified by the state as "persistently dangerous" within the last two years.
6. The school must follow all applicable civil rights laws and must not be subject to a letter of findings from OCR concluding that the school has violated one or more of the civil rights laws that OCR enforces. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan from the school to remedy the violation.

7. The school must not be subject to a pending lawsuit by the U.S. Department of Justice alleging that the institution has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
8. The school must have, or be subject to, a nondiscrimination policy (**provide a copy of the policy**), be committed to equal opportunity for all students and all staff consistent with applicable law and must not have any outstanding findings of unlawful discrimination. The Pennsylvania Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify an institution's nomination and/or rescind an institution's award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.
9. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the school or school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings

Part II - Demographic Data

Data should be provided for the current school year (2025-2026) unless otherwise stated.

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located. If unsure, refer to NCES database for correct category: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/> (Find your school and check "Locale.")

Urban (city or town) Suburban Rural

2. Number of students in the school as of October 1, 2025 enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent at the school.

Grade	# of Students
PreK*	
K	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12 or higher	
Total Students	

3. Show daily student attendance rates. Only high schools need to supply yearly graduation rates.

	2024-25 School Year	2023-24 School Year	2022-23 School Year	2021-22 School Year	2020-21 School Year
Daily student attendance percentage	%	%	%	%	%
High school graduation rate	%	%	%	%	%

4. If student attendance is under 90% in the most recent year, please explain:

5. Has your school previously received a National Blue Ribbon Schools or Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools award.

Yes

No

6. If yes, state the year in which your school received the award.

Part III – Non-Public School Assessment Results for Norm-Referenced Tests

Non-public schools must report norm-referenced test (NRT) results in reading and mathematics for students tested in grades 3 and higher in the most recent administration of the test within the most recently completed school year (2024-2025). Each school must obtain grade level summary reports from the test publisher for students tested in reading and mathematics for each of these grades.

These reports must include:

1. The number of students tested;
2. The average student scale score or the national percentile equivalent of the average scale score in reading and mathematics for all students in each tested grade; and
3. The average student scale score or the national percentile equivalent of the average scale score in reading and mathematics for each sufficiently large subgroup in each tested grade.

Please make notations on these reports to explain results that represent fewer than 95 percent of the students enrolled at the time of testing (e.g., the number of students who took alternative assessments).

A copy of these reports (in a PDF file) must be provided as an attachment when submitting the application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Part IV – School Climate And Culture

1. Engaging Students: In approximately 500 words, describe how your school engages, motivates, and supports students academically, developmentally, culturally, and socially. Consider your school's unique population and how programs and services are aligned to their needs. What steps are taken to ensure respect in the classroom and the school?

2. **Engaging Families and Community:** In approximately 400 words, describe the strategies the school has found most successful in working with family and community members for student success and school improvement. What, if any, community partnerships have been formed to address student and/or family needs? Community can include non-profits, institutes of higher education, and businesses and industry partners, etc.

3. **Creating Professional Culture:** In approximately 400 words, describe how your school creates an environment where teachers feel valued and supported. This should include, but should not be limited to, the school's professional development approach and its impact on the capacity of teachers and other school staff. Include examples of how teachers and other school staff are supported.

4. **School Leadership:** In approximately 400 words, describe the leadership philosophy and structure in the school, along with the roles of the principal, other school leaders, and stakeholders. Illustrate, through examples, how the school's leadership ensures that policies, programs, relationships, and resources focus on student achievement. Please refer to school leaders by their roles, rather than by their names.

Part V – Assurances

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the eligibility requirements in Part I-Eligibility Certification, and certify, to the best of my knowledge, that it is accurate.

A copy of the non-discrimination policy was provided as an attachment.

A copy of the report on norm-referenced test (NRT) results as described in Part IV was provided as an attachment.

(Principal's Signature)

Date

(Director's Signature)

Date