



PRESS RELEASE



LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Littleton, Massachusetts

Office of the Superintendent

TO: School Committee
Staff Email
Parent Email Lists
Local Press
Local Cable

FROM: Paul A. Livingston, Superintendent of Schools

RE: Commitment to Excellence Award

DATE: April 26, 2006

We have just been notified that the Littleton Public Schools have been selected to receive the Commitment to Excellence Award by MASSX (MassExcellence), the state organization which oversees the State Baldrige Award Program. The Littleton Public Schools are the first school district in Massachusetts to be recognized with the award. The State Baldrige Award Criteria is aligned to the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award overseen by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the United States Department of Commerce. The Littleton application for the award was submitted in December 2005, reviewed by a panel of readers, a site visit took place in March, and a panel of judges awarded the honor in April, 2006. Examiner comments included:

- “Enthusiasm, teamwork, and collaboration was evident among everyone encountered.”
- “High degree of alignment and use of educational data across the organization – level to level, grade to grade and location to location.”
- “Culture of doing the right thing with a consistent focus on improvement including active participation by the community.”

The Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence are about students excelling! They also are about an organization that is high performing, has high integrity, and is characterized by the ethical behavior of its students, faculty, and staff.

The Education Criteria help school districts respond to current challenges and address the complexities of delivering today’s results while preparing effectively for the future. The 2005 Education Criteria have been updated to reflect the specific pressures on leadership to drive student achievement, the need for organizational, not just technological, innovation, and the challenges of long-term viability and sustainability as a high-performing organization. The criteria focus more directly the topic of execution: being agile and still executing with speed.

The Education Criteria for Performance Excellence can be found through the contact information listed on the attached sheet.

Whether the school is small or large, is involved in elementary, secondary, or higher education, or has one location or multiple sites, the Education Criteria provide a valuable framework that can help you measure performance and plan in an uncertain environment. The criteria help align resources with approaches, such as continuous improvement, a District Accountability Report Card, accreditation self-studies, improvement of student achievement/communication, productivity, and effectiveness; and achievement of strategic goals.

Along with the Littleton Public Schools, Cambridge Healthcare Alliance is also being recognized with a Commitment to Excellence Award. The Baldrige Criteria applies to sector industries in Education, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Business, and Government. The award comes with a thorough assessment of strengths and opportunities for improvement which can help chart our course for continued improvements.

The formal awards ceremony will take place on May 15, 2006 at Intel in Hudson, Mass. Ranch Kimball, Secretary of Economic Development for the Commonwealth of Mass., will be the keynote speaker. Invited dignitaries include Governor Mitt Romney, Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, Mass. Department of Education Commissioner David Driscoll, Tom Scott, Executive Director of the Mass. Association of School Superintendents (MASS), and Glenn Koocher, executive Director of the Mass. Association of School Committees (MASC). Senator Pam Resor and Representative Geoff Hall along with members of the State Legislative Education Committee are also invited guests.

The Littleton Public Schools will continue their celebration on Thursday, May 18, 2006, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Littleton High School. The community is invited to an evening of celebration with a community picnic with music and activities. Food is being provided by Donelan's Supermarkets, Kimball Farms, Veryfine/Kraft and our other sponsors for events and activities include: Littleton Realtor's Association, Camp Nashoba, and the High School Honor Society, Student Council, Interact Club, and Athletic program. The celebration activities will be followed by the High School Concert in the auditorium at 7:30 PM. We hope you can attend.

This success represents the community and all of its citizens, school staff, elected and appointed officials, volunteers, parents, senior citizens, local business, and of course, our students, who make all of this possible and give us a reason to say, "There is a lot to like about Littleton."

Please contact either Paul A. Livingston or Susan Donovan at 978-486-8951 for further information.

Attachment: Baldrige National Institute of Standards Contact Information

Baldrige National Quality Program
Baldrige National Quality Program
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration
United States Department of Commerce
Administration Building, Room A600
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1020
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1020

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration, manages the Baldrige National Quality Program (BNQP). For more than a century, NIST has helped to lay the foundation for the innovation, economic growth, and quality of life that Americans have come to expect. NIST technology, measurements, and standards help U.S. industry invent and manufacture superior products reliably, provide critical services, ensure a fair marketplace for consumers and businesses, and promote acceptance of U.S. products in foreign markets. NIST also partners with the private sector to accelerate the development of innovative technologies that promise significant commercial payoffs and widespread benefits for the nation. Through a network of nearly 400 assistance centers that serve all 50 states and Puerto Rico, NIST provides technical and business assistance to help smaller manufacturers overcome barriers to productivity and competitiveness.

Call BNQP or visit our Web site for

- information on improving the performance of your organization
- information on eligibility requirements for the Baldrige Award
- information on applying for the Baldrige Award
- information on becoming a Baldrige Examiner
- information on the Baldrige Award recipients
- individual copies of the Criteria for Performance Excellence—Business, Education, and Health Care (no cost)
- information on BNQP educational materials
- case studies

Telephone: (301) 975-2036; Fax: (301) 948-3716; E-mail: nqp@nist.gov
Web site: www.baldrige.nist.gov

American Society for Quality
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Milwaukee, WI 53201-3005

By making quality a global priority, an organizational imperative, and a personal ethic, the American Society for Quality (ASQ) becomes the community for everyone who seeks quality technology, concepts, or tools to improve themselves and their world. ASQ administers the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award under contract to NIST.

Call ASQ to order

- bulk copies of the Criteria
- Award recipients videos

Telephone: (800) 248-1946; Fax: (414) 272-1734; E-mail: asq@asq.org
Web site: www.asq.org