



Minnesota Promising Practices Program — Evaluation Criteria

Minnesota Promising Practices applications will be evaluated using the criteria:

- **Uniqueness:** Although a given practice may be new to a particular school or local area, it may not be unique statewide. Many wonderful and effective practices (such as mentoring programs, service clubs, Veterans recognition, or leadership training) are sometimes not selected because they are not unique or there are many such practices submitted for consideration in a given year. Many successful applications include evidence of how a campus customized these programs to their campus and/or implemented the practice in a particularly creative or unique way.
- **Specificity:** Synergy & Leadership Exchange is looking for distinct programs or practices that may be replicated, not descriptions of a school's entire character education focus or initiative. Similarly, mere implementation of a commercial or professional character development program or product would not normally meet the criteria for a Promising Practice. There should be sufficient evidence that the school personalized or supplemented the program to the extent that it would meet the criteria for a Promising Practice.
- **Evidence of Impact:** The application should contain sufficient evidence of impact on participants. Some practices may hold promise for the future, but have not yet demonstrated sufficient evidence of impact.
- **11 Principles:** Practices must be in keeping with the [11 Principles](#). For example, with Principle 5, community service projects will normally not be selected if they do not include the components of service learning (student leadership, connection to curriculum, and reflection). Similarly, even though "caught being good" or other student recognition programs may be well-loved in a given school, Synergy & Leadership Exchange is looking for practices that do not excessively single students out for recognition or give students material or extrinsic rewards in order to best satisfy the spirit and intent of Principle 7.
- **Clarity of narrative:** There needs to be enough detail in the narrative responses for evaluators to judge the effectiveness of the practice.
- **Number of awards per school:** Synergy & Leadership Exchange does not give more than two awards to any one school or district applicant in a given year. Applications submitted by individual schools within a district are not considered "district" applications.
- **For Districts:** District submissions should include sufficient evidence of a district-level initiative, including how district-level activities, policies, or direction enabled or enhanced the practice. It should not merely be an articulation of individual school efforts within the district (in such cases, it would be more appropriate for those individual schools to apply on their own behalf).