



New Mexico Music Educators Association Award of Distinction & Certificate of Recognition

An award and presentation to be made annually to an outstanding school district, who has demonstrated support for and commitment to high-quality music education programs district wide. The priority such a district places on music education is a major factor in the quality of programs within that district. **One** school district may be selected to receive the Award of Distinction however **multiple** Certificate of Recognition awards may be given each year. Districts receiving these awards will be notified by NMMEA and a presentation honoring them will take place at the annual general membership meeting at the NMMEA All-State Business Awards Luncheon.

All candidates should apply for the Award of Distinction, the review committee will determine if the district is eligible for the Award of Distinction. In the event that the committee doesn't feel the district is to be awarded this award, they can opt to award the certificate of recognition.

Selection of the NMMEA Committee will be based on the following criteria:

- District must have exemplary music programs;
- Music must be offered at all levels (elementary, middle school and high school);
- Multiple music disciplines must be present (band, choir, orchestra, guitar and etc);
- A financial commitment to music programs must be demonstrated in the district;
- Districts creating the highest level of supportive environment will be awarded the *Award of Distinction* while districts that are supportive but not to the fullest degree will be awarded the **Certificate of Recognition**.

Nominators must submit the following for each school district nominated:

- Completed Award of Distinction Application verified and signed by the nominator and school district official;
- Provide accurate and current contact information including address, phone numbers, and email address in the application;
- Exactly three letters of support with at least two letters being from music education faculty within the district (**all letters of recommendation must be signed by respective writers**);
- Additional support materials such as press clippings, if available.
- A PDF or .JPG of the district's official logo.

Procedures for Nomination of Award of Distinction

- District NMMEA organizations at a regular meeting of its membership may nominate any current school or school district administrator, from any NMMEA district, for consideration of the award. Also for consideration, the nominee must continue to work as an administrator at the same school or school district at the time of award.
- The state committee for final selection may select **one** recipient per calendar year for the Award of Distinction. At its discretion, the NMMEA state committee for final selection may choose to recognize multiple districts, and award the Certificate of Recognition.
- Each District NMMEA President will appoint a three member committee from that district's membership to gather potential names of nominees, gather applications, screen completed resumes, letters of support, and recommend that district's nominations. This being said, NMMEA respects the individual process for which each NMMEA District determines its nominees for NMMEA Achievement Awards and the process for determining nominees may be individually determined by each District NMMEA as set forth in its district bylaws and guidelines, or at the discretion of the District NMMEA President.
- Submission guidelines are detailed in the “Guidelines for Submission of Individual Achievement Awards” document. The document is available at www.nmmea.com
- The NMMEA Past President, chairperson of the selection committee, will receive all verified requisite nomination materials from each District NMMEA President and will forward all received materials to members of the state committee for final selection.
- The state committee for final selection is composed of the six NMMEA division vice-presidents and the immediate NMMEA Past President, who will serve as selection committee chairperson. The state committee for final selection will review all materials, discuss nominees, and vote upon the nominees for each of the NMMEA Achievement Awards. The committee will make the final selection and announce the name of the recipient to the NMMEA Board of Directors at its summer meeting.
- The NMMEA Past President and the six NMMEA division vice-presidents are NOT allowed to be nominees for any NMMEA Achievement Award during the award cycle for which they serve on the state committee for final selection, nor are they allowed to nominate individuals or school districts or write letters on behalf of nominated individuals or school districts.

The Award:

- A traveling plaque engraved with each district having received the Award of Distinction and framed certificates for the Certificate of Recognition.
- Publication of district's name and appropriate recognition will be made in the fall issue of the *New Mexico Musician* and in the *Official Program and Information Handbook* for the NMMEA All-State Music Festival and In-Service Conference.
- Public recognition will be made by presenting the award to a district representative at the annual general membership meeting at the NMMEA All-State Business Awards Luncheon. Lunch for two district representatives will be at NMMEA expense.
- Publication of the recipient's name and award will be included in the *Official Program and Information Handbook* for the NMMEA All-State Music Festival and In-Service Conference for at least ten years.