

MESPA School of Excellence Award - Lyndale Community School

Lyndale School's 2017-2018 Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) School of Excellence Award is a reflection of the great work that we do each day at Lyndale Community School. The two-step application process for this award centers on administering a self-study and articulating a plan for building on our strengths and addressing areas for improvement.

The criteria used for evaluation and planning for improvement are aligned with six national standards related to effective leadership in schools. They are:

1. Learning Centered
 - a. Balance leadership and management roles to lead schools in ways place student and adult learning at the center
2. Diverse Communities
 - a. Set high expectations and standards for the academic, social emotional and physical development of all students in an environment that acknowledges, fosters and celebrates diversity
3. 21st Century Learners
 - a. Demand content and instruction that ensure student achievement
4. Quality Instruction
 - a. Create a culture of continuous learning for adults, tied to student learning and other school goals
5. Knowledge and Data
 - a. Manage knowledge and data to inform decisions and measure progress of student, adult, and school performance
6. Community Engagement
 - a. Actively engage the community to create shared responsibility for student performance and development

In the Winter of 2016, we sought input from as many members of our staff as possible to complete the Self Study using a survey format (Part One of the Application Process). From there, members of our Instructional Leadership Team analyzed the responses to identify the strengths of our school as well as potential areas of improvement. These findings were recorded and expanded upon in Part Two of the Application Process titled *Building on Strengths and Planning for Improvement*. The entirety of Lyndale Community School's MESPA School of Excellence Application can be found on our School Website.

Being recognized as a MESPA School of Excellence validates the foundational work of our school community in the past, and affirms a culture of continuous improvement moving forward. A MESPA School of Excellence Award is valid for five years, and is eligible for revalidation when it expires.