

FINANCE AWARD WINNERS FOR 2010

Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School	Mankato Public School District	Saint Francis Public School District
Alexandria Public School District	Marshall Public School District	Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists
Atwater Cosmos Grove City	Medford Public School District	Schoolcraft Learning Community Charter
Barnum Public School District	Menahga Public School District	Sebek Public School District
Beacon Academy	Michael Frome Academy	Seven Hills Classical Academy
Beacon Preparatory School	Minneapolis Academy Charter School	Sobriety High
Benson Public School District	Minnesota Online High School	Sojourner Truth Academy
Big Lake Public School District	Minnesota Transitions Charter School	South Koochiching School District
Birch Grove Community School	Minnetonka Public School District	South Saint Paul Public School District
Breckenridge Public School District	Moose Lake Public School District	South Washington County School District
Bright Water Elementary	Mora Public School District	Southland Public School District
Buffalo Public School District	New Century Charter School	Southside Family Charter School
Byron Public School District	New Discoveries Montessori Academy	Spring Grove School District
Cedar Mountain School District	New Millennium Academy Charter School	Stewartville Public School District
Chisholm Public School District	New Spirit Schools	Stonebridge Community School
Cook County Public Schools	North Shore Community School	Stride Academy Charter School
Crosby-Ironton Public School District	Northern Lights Community School	Studio Academy Charter School
Crosslake Community Charter School	Northwest Passage High School	Swan River Montessori Charter School
Cyber Village Academy	Nova Classical Academy	Tarek Ibn Ziyad Academy
Dakota Area Community Charter School	Orono Public School District	Team Academy
Deer River Public School District	Osseo Public School District	TrekNorth High School
E.C.H.O. Charter School	Owatonna Public School District	Urban Academy Charter School
Eagle Ridge Academy Charter School	PACT Charter School	Virginia Public School District
Eagle Valley Public School District	Paideia Academy Charter School	Waconia Public School District
Elk River Public School District	Paladin Academy	Waseca Public School District
Emily Charter School	Partnership Academy, Inc.	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown ISD 2143
Esko Public School District	Pine River-Backus School District	West Central Area
Excell Academy Charter	Pipestone Area School District	West Metro Education Program
Four Directions Charter Schools	Plainview-Elgin-Millville Community School	White Bear Lake School District
Frazee-Vergas Public School District	Princeton Public School District	Willmar Public School District
Grand Rapids Public School District	Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools	Windom Public School District
Great River School	Region 9-South Central Service Cooperative	Win-E-Mac School District
Hastings Public School District	Richard Allen Math & Science Academy	Winona Area Public School District
Hinckley-Finlayson School District	Richfield Public School District	World Learner Charter School
Hmong Academy	Riverbend Academy	Yinghua Academy
Hopkins Public School District	Rochester Math & Science Academy	
Hutchinson Public School District	Rochester Off-Campus Charter High	68 of 340 or 20% of traditional districts
Intermediate School District 917	Rochester Public School District	55 of 158 or 35% of charters
Jordan Public School District	Rockford Public School District	3 of 63 or 5% of other units
Kaleidoscope Charter School	Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District	In FY2010 125 awards up from 118 in FY2009
Kenyon-Wanamingo School District	Rush City Public School District	
Kimball Public School District	Saint Anthony-New Brighton Schools	
Kingsland Public School District	Saint Croix Preparatory Academy	
La Crescent Montessori Academy		
Lafayette Public Charter School		
Lakes International Language Academy		
LeSueur-Henderson School District		
Little Falls Public School District		

The MDE School Finance Award

The School Finance Award was created and monitored by several people in the Program Finance Division at the Minnesota Department of Education. The intent of the award was to continue to highlight the importance of compliance with the law as well as provide a method to motivate reporting units to strive to greater levels of compliance, sound accounting and training. It was simply a way to recognize good work and “post the model.”

There were 170 units that earned the award in one or more years since its inception in FY 2003. Mankato earned the award every year for eight straight years. There were 11 winners or 2% of all the reporting units that first year. Each year the award was clarified and got more rigorous. More criteria were added or tightened in each of the past several years. The bar continued to rise. Yet, the award winners for FY 2010 increased over the prior years.

There were a total of 126 winners or 22.45% of the 561 reporting units for FY 2010. There were 19 new entries to the winners list this year. Of the 126 winners this year, 55 of 158 units or 35% were charter schools, 68 of 340 units or 20% were traditional school districts, and 3 of 63 units were regional or intermediate units.

The list of winners is also punctuated by districts or schools that were in Statutory Operating Debt in past years. There were 19 units that removed the condition of SOD and went on to earn the coveted School Finance Award. They as well as the others received the specially designed certificate and a signed letter of congratulations from the commissioner.

The names of all the winning units are posted to the web each year and given recognition at several events including those hosted by the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools and the Minnesota Association of Business Officials.

Well done all!!

January 21, 2010
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