



Schools of Distinction

**READINGTON MIDDLE
SCHOOL'S NATIONAL
RECOGNITION**

What is the Schools of Distinction Program?



AMLE Schools of Distinction is both a recognition and continuous improvement program open to any school that educates students aged 10–15. Schools will be celebrated for their commitment to the middle grades best practices outlined in AMLE’s foundational text, The Successful Middle School: This We Believe, while also being guided through a process of self-assessment and strategic vision setting to help foster ongoing growth and success.

The Successful Middle School: This We Believe

Essential Attributes

AMLE affirms that an education for young adolescents must be:

Responsive

Using the distinctive nature and identities of young adolescents as the foundation upon which all decisions about school are made.

Challenging

Cultivating high expectations and advancing learning for every member of the school community.

Empowering

Facilitating environments in which students take responsibility for their own learning and contribute positively to the world around them.

Equitable

Providing socially just learning opportunities and environments for every student.

Engaging

Fostering a learning atmosphere that is relevant, participatory, and motivating for all learners.

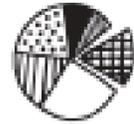


From *The Successful Middle School: This We Believe*, published by the Association for Middle Level Education. Build your own professional development plan with the Successful Middle School program.

Visit amle.org/sms

Characteristics

Successful middle schools exhibit the following 18 characteristics:



Culture and Community

- Educators respect and value young adolescents.
- The school environment is welcoming, inclusive, and affirming for all.
- Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate.
- School safety is addressed proactively, justly, and thoughtfully.
- Comprehensive counseling and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
- The school engages families as valued partners.
- The school collaborates with community and business partners.



Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- Educators are specifically prepared to teach young adolescents and possess a depth of understanding in the content areas they teach.
- Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and diverse.
- Health, wellness, and social-emotional competence are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies.
- Instruction fosters learning that is active, purposeful, and democratic.
- Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it.



Leadership and Organization

- A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision.
- Policies and practices are student-centered, unbiased, and fairly implemented.
- Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about young adolescents, equitable practices, and educational research.
- Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration.
- Professional learning for all staff is relevant, long term, and job embedded.
- Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships.

AMLE Schools of Distinction Program Objectives

1

Recognize and celebrate schools that are actively implementing the essential attributes and characteristics of successful middle grades schools.

2

Provide ALL schools that support young adolescents with the resources to support their continuous improvement journeys.

3

Create a network of schools that can learn from and support each other.

4

Highlight for our communities the exceptional work that takes place every day in middle level education.



SOD Roadmap



**Year
Round**



**Complete
Successful
Middle
School
Assessment**



**By
February
28**



**Submit Schools
of Distinction
Program
Application**



March



**Evaluation
Team
Assigned to
School**



November



**Schools
Recognized
at AMLE
Annual
Conference
Celebration**



August



**Schools
Submit
Conference
Presentation
Proposals**



**By
June 30**



**Schools
Notified of
Application
Outcome**



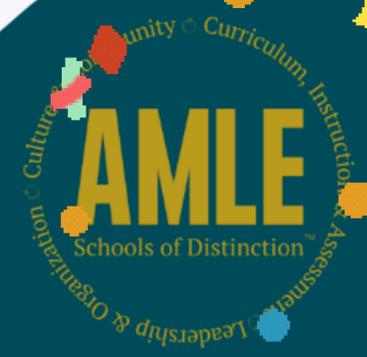
**April -
May**



**School
Evaluations
Conducted**

2024 AMLE School
of Distinction

Readington Middle School







MISSION DRIVEN

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF...
TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER...
TAKE CARE OF OUR SCHOOL...

