

Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award Question & Answer Sheet

Recognition

Q. How many awards are given out for the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award?

A. One program will be awarded \$10,000 and named the 2017 Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award winner. However, three to four programs will also be selected as runners-up. The Afterschool Alliance will work with these programs to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2017 *Afterschool for All Challenge* and other national conferences, as well as be included in future Afterschool Alliance materials and webinars.

	Award Winner	Runner-Up
Number of awards	1	3-4
\$10,000 award	X	
Presented award at <i>Afterschool for All Challenge</i>	X	
Present at the <i>Afterschool for All Challenge</i>	X	X
Featured in issue brief	X	X
Present at national conferences	X	X
Present on Afterschool Alliance webinars	X	X

Guidelines and Deadlines

Q. When are nominations for the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award due?

A. All nominations must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Questions for the nomination form can be found [here](#), and the online submission form is [here](#).

Q. Is the award limited to programs that serve only English language learner students?

A. No, as long as your program serves English language learner students, whether that is five or 55 English language learner students, it is eligible to be nominated for this year's award.



Q. Are programs that have not yet started eligible for the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award?

A. Yes, programs that have not yet started are eligible for to be nominated, however, the purpose of the award is to find a program that has a demonstrated impact of success. Programs that have not yet started, or are newly formed, will not be as competitive due to the limited evidence they will have to show that they are successfully supporting building their English language learner students' literacy skills.



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Submission Process

Q. Are before school and summer learning programs eligible for the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award?

A. Yes, before school, afterschool and summer learning programs are all eligible for the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award. However, when reviewing nomination forms, reviewers do take into consideration program features such as dosage and duration when considering the services programs provide students and the program's impact on students.

Q. Are programs located outside of the United States eligible for the award?

A. No, unfortunately the award is limited to programs located within the United States.

Q. Does the program have to be located within a certain distance from a Dollar General Store to be eligible for the award?

A. For our Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award, all programs, regardless of their location are eligible for the award. However, programs located within 20 miles of a Dollar General Store are given a priority status during the review process. In the past, both programs that were located inside and outside Dollar General communities have made it to the final round of review and considered for the award.

Q. Can photos, videos, and other documents be uploaded and submitted with our nomination form?

A. No, we are not accepting additional documentation from nominators or nominated programs. All programs will be assessed solely on the information provided in the nomination form.

Q. Is an organization allowed to submit a nomination form for each of its different programs?

A. Yes, organizations are allowed to submit a nomination form for each of its various programs. For example, if you are a school district that runs five separate afterschool programs, you have the option of submitting five nomination forms, one for each afterschool program. However, organizations should be sure to highlight the distinctive elements of each nominated program and help reviewers distinguish between each program.

Nomination Form Information

Q. What does “culturally responsive” in question 11 of the nomination form mean?

A. Question 11 of the nomination form asks: *Please briefly describe any outreach the program does to recruit English language learner students to the program. This can include, but is not limited to:*

- *Outreach to schools*
- *Outreach to families in immigrant and refugee communities*
- *Creating a culturally responsive environment*

In this context, part of the question asks if the program has made efforts to create a program environment that is sensitive to the diverse learning needs of their students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) included the following in their book about cultural responsiveness, “Culturally responsive (or relevant) teaching has been described as ‘a pedagogy that empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills, and attitudes’...mak[ing] standards-based content and curricula accessible to students and teach in a way that students can understand...incorporat[ing] relatable aspects of students’ daily lives into the curriculum.”

Q. Our program works closely with our students’ families, would reviewers want to know about this?

A. Yes, if your program has a strong parent engagement component, particularly with parents of your English language learner students, it is an aspect that reviewers would be interested in learning about. Question #10 and question #11 in the nomination form are two places where programs have the opportunity to elaborate not only on parent engagement efforts, but other non-literacy related activities and services offered.

Q. Should our nomination form include information about our program’s impact on the students we serve as a whole, or only data on the English language learner students we serve?

A. Nomination forms should include the data that is most relevant to the award and will provide reviewers with the best information about the program. This can include data on programs’ overall student body, as well as data on programs’ English language learner students. As the focus of this year’s award is on supporting the success of English language learner students, including outcomes specifically related to this group of students where possible will help make a stronger case to reviewers of the program’s impact.

Q. Is there a specific outcome that reviewers will look for when reading nomination forms?

A. Reviewers take a wide variety of outcomes into consideration when looking at a program’s nomination form. In the past, nomination forms that have advanced on to later rounds of review have included academic information, such as grades in English language arts and reading test scores; positive youth development outcomes, such as a positive self-identity, active and healthy living, and community connectedness; social and emotional learning outcomes, such as relationship skills and responsible decision making; and qualitative information, such as anecdotal stories of students’ successes and excerpts of interviews with students, staff and parents. Again, for this year’s Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award, where possible, nominators should strongly consider including information that pertains specifically to the program’s English language learner students.