



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

October 3, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: National Excellence in Urban Education Award Program Announcement**

Each year the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) identifies and celebrates some of the nation's best urban schools through its National Excellence in Urban Education Award Program. Since 2006, NCUST has recognized **94 elementary, middle, and high schools across the nation**. These urban schools serve low-income communities and have multiple challenges; yet, they have outstanding evidence of academic achievement for all students. Winning schools contribute to an ever-growing effort to understand how educators can create excellent urban schools for all students. In the award-winner schools, every demographic group achieves at levels that exceed the overall state average for all students.

NCUST is seeking applicants for the 2015 awards. Please find a list of the award criteria in [Attachment A](#). The criteria and award application are available at the NCUST Web site at <http://www.ncust.org>. We encourage all high achieving urban schools in metropolitan areas with a population greater than 50,000 residents to apply. The application deadline is November 14, 2014.

If you have questions about the application or criteria, please contact Dr. Lynne Perez, associate director, NCUST, at [lperez@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:lperez@mail.sdsu.edu) or 619-594-7905.

SRS/SLR/cd

Attachment:

- A. [2015 National Excellence in Urban Education Eligibility Criteria](#) (PDF)