



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR PROGRAM HONORING HIGH-QUALITY, EQUITABLE SCHOOLS



Public schools are often lambasted for their failures—real or imagined. (We’re looking at you, Betsy DeVos!) But what about schools that serve as models of how to do things right, especially when it comes to providing all students with a high-quality and equitable public education?

The National Education Policy Center’s Schools of Opportunity program recognizes schools that are exemplary in their work to close opportunity gaps. Applications are open now through January 31st. The program focuses on schools that serve the high school grades, and anyone can nominate a school.

Founded five years ago, the program draws attention to high schools that create outstanding learning opportunities for all their students. The application and evaluation processes consider how these schools are broadening and enriching learning opportunities, creating and maintaining a healthy school culture, and implementing a variety of research-based approaches that close opportunity gaps. The [application criteria](#) are described in detail online, along with the program’s [scoring rubric](#).

All applications are reviewed by a national panel of school leaders and researchers. Schools in the running for Gold and Silver designations receive site visits.

Many schools use the application process as a formative assessment, a way to take a step back and reflect on their policies and practices. In at least one case, the process has also been a learning experience for university students and practitioners alike, as a postsecondary instructor worked with a local high school to gather and crystalize information for the application.

To publicize the approaches and accomplishments of recognized Gold and Silver schools, write-ups will be published in the *Washington Post* Answer Sheet blog and other media outlets.

To quickly nominate a school, just visit <https://www.cognitofrms.com/SchoolsOfOpportu->

nity/SchoolsOfOpportunityNomination.

To view or start the application, go to <http://schoolsofopportunity.org/application>. NEPC staff are happy to assist with completing the application and can be reached at opportunity@colorado.edu.

NEPC Resources on Schools of Opportunity

This newsletter is made possible in part by support provided by the Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice: <http://www.greatlakescenter.org>

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