

MISSOURI

National Schools to Watch

About the program: The National Schools to Watch program was designed by the National Forum to honor excellence in middle school education. Criteria established by the National Forum focuses school improvement efforts characterized by a continuous trajectory toward success. Each state's Schools to Watch recipients are recognized annually at the National Schools to Watch Conference.

Honoring High Performing Model Middle Schools

Award Criteria: Schools must demonstrate a high degree of competency in the following areas:

- *Academic Excellence*
- *Developmental Responsiveness*
- *Social Equity*
- *Organizational Structures*



Benefits of Schools to Watch

Recognizes Excellence

Showcases schools that demonstrate strong leadership, academic achievement, and a commitment to ongoing progress.

Enhances School Culture

Fosters a positive, cohesive environment where students and staff thrive.

Offers Professional Development Opportunities

Provides resources, training, and national conferences to support educators.

Provides a Clear Improvement Pathway

Offers a structured framework for continuous school improvement

Encourages Data-Driven Decision-Making

Helps schools use evidence-based strategies to refine practices and policies.

Connects Schools to a National Network

Encourages collaboration and idea-sharing with high-performing middle schools across 22 states





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Steps to becoming designated as a School to Watch

1. Download the application [2027 NSTW Application](#)
2. Request access and complete the [Schools to Watch Self-Study & Rating Rubric](#).
3. Download the FREE [Schools to Watch Toolkit](#).

As an alternative, you may [contact your State Director](#).

Not quite ready to become a Schools to Watch? Use the [Schools to Watch Self-Study & Rating Rubric](#) for school improvement.

The rubric is available to share with your administration and faculty if you should want to use it as a school improvement tool without applying for recognition at this time.

The **National Forum** offers a **FREE [Schools to Watch Toolkit](#)** to guide you through the **Schools to Watch Self-Study & Rating Rubric** and the STW application process.

