WHOLE CHILD
NETWORK
of SCHOOLS
The ASCD Whole Child Initiative

2012 Application to Join the Whole Child Network of Schools

Current educational practice and policy focus overwhelmingly on academic achievement measured by standardized, mandated tests. This achievement is but one element of student learning and development and only a part of any complete system of educational accountability. ASCD's Whole Child Initiative (www.ascd.org/wholechild) is an association-wide effort to change the conversation about education from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that promotes the development of children who are **healthy**, **safe**, **engaged**, **supported**, and **challenged** within a *sustainable approach to education and community engagement*. We seek to redefine what a successful learner is and how we measure success within our schools and communities. ASCD is helping educators, families, community members, and policymakers move from envisioning the education of the whole child to acting on it. Our children deserve it. Our schools and communities need it. Our future demands it.

In May, ASCD will select a small group of schools from across the United States and Canada to become part of our Whole Child Network (WCN). WCN Schools in the network will receive implementation support through a three-school-year grant cycle to ensure a *sustainable,* comprehensive approach. This approach is based on research demonstrating that a comprehensive approach that engages all stake-holders creates sustainable, meaningful outcomes for students, including—but not limited to—increased academic achievement.

The schools chosen for the WCN will commit to a comprehensive school improvement process that will use the Whole Child Tenets—**healthy**, **safe**, **engaged**, **supported**, and **challenged**—and their indicators (PDF) as their sustainable approach.

ASCD's WCN is open to all schools (e.g., public, charter, private) of any grade level within the United States and Canada.

Benefits

To support the implementation of a whole child approach, each ASCD WCN school will receive

- A $10,000 grant for the 2012–2013 school year, subject to review for renewal in the subsequent two school years. Grant renewal and continued participation in the Whole Child Network will be contingent upon the school's demonstrated progress and available funds.

- One full day of on-site training facilitated in partnership with ASCD's WCN staff to introduce the whole child approach ("Whole Child 101") within the school community.

Each WCN school will also receive individualized support from ASCD in developing a plan to implement a whole child approach to education in their schools, including a needs assessment. The implementation will be customized using both face-to-face training and virtual and print services, tools, and products that address the various needs identified by the assessment, such as instructional program improvements, job-embedded professional development, student support, health and safety, and teacher/leader effectiveness. As a result of this support and training, schools will be able to

- Make the instructional and student support changes necessary to support school improvement efforts.
- Build a culture of success in school and develop opportunities to expose students to college and career options and guidance.
- Create opportunities for teachers and other staff to learn about, practice, implement, and evaluate research-based strategies that address identified problems and are aligned to school goals.
- Establish practices to develop the conditions for learning within a positive school culture and climate.

Other benefits for WCN schools include

- An all-expenses paid trip to ASCD's 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago, Ill., for up to five team members.
- Opportunities to engage in other ASCD networks and events.
- An ASCD Institutional Membership for each school.

Requirements

Participating schools will agree to implement a whole child approach, including the following actions:

- Complete a comprehensive, schoolwide pre- and post-assessment based on the tenets and indicators;
- Engage a planning, decision making, and implementation team that is representative of the whole school;
- Conduct an objective comprehensive data review of your assessment results facilitated by ASCD;
- Adopt and implement a planning process;
- Form collaborative, working partnerships with community-based organizations;
- Participate in ongoing professional development with the school team and community;
- Actively participate in all WCN activities, forums, and events;
- Assess student and staff engagement in the school community;
- Use this opportunity to create a sustainable approach to whole child education for your school;
- Participate in an evaluation of the process directed by ASCD.

Conditions of Participation

- Selected schools must sign a memorandum of understanding that delineates the requirements for the grant. The principal, school team, district superintendent, and school board chair are required to sign this document. They should review the grant requirements and memorandum of understanding prior to the school's application submission.
- Each selected school must agree to send a team of five members to the 2012 WCN institute in July 2012. Each school's team should reflect a diverse range of constituency groups from within the school and surrounding community. All expenses will be paid by ASCD.

Selection Criteria

Strong submissions will provide evidence of the applicant's capacity and commitment to become a comprehensive implementer of a whole child approach to education within their school community. Although the continuum ratings are important, it is just as important to show comprehensive thinking in the responses to the questions asked. Responses should reflect the applicant's careful consideration of their placement on the continuum.

Timeline

Deadline for submission is **April 30, 2012.**

Chosen schools will be notified by **May 15, 2012**, and will be asked for documentation of a school team commitment of participation in the Whole Child Network by May 28, 2012.

For questions about the application, please contact us by e-mail at wholechild@ascd.org*.*

Instructions

We recommend that you gather as many stakeholders as possible before applying for this grant to discuss ASCD's Whole Child Initiative and approach to education, the tenets and their indicators (PDF) for a sustainable approach, and the grant conditions and requirements, with particular attention to the actions required of the ASCD WCN schools.

To ensure your proposal contains all of the necessary information, be sure to read the introductory information in advance. We suggest printing a copy of this PDF to use as you develop your answers prior to completing, saving, and submitting this form.

Submit your completed PDF by e-mail, postal mail, or fax no later than April 30, 2012, to

WHOLE CHILD NETWORK OF SCHOOLS
E-MAIL: wholechild@ascd.org
ADDRESS: 1703 N. Beauregard St. • Alexandria, VA 22311-1714
FAX#: 1-703-575-5406 • Attn: Donna Snyder, Manager of Whole Child Programs

Chosen schools will be notified by May 15, 2012, and will be asked for documentation of a school team commitment of participation in the Whole Child Network by May 28, 2012. Failure to respond appropriately within allotted time will void any offer of participation in the WCN.

If you need help completing the application or have trouble saving your changes in the editable PDF, please contact us by e-mail at wholechild@ascd.org.

Please save the application in PDF format and e-mail the file to wholechild@ascd.org. You can use the "signature" function in the PDF, or you can print and sign, then fax or scan the signature form. If you print and fax (or mail) the application, you may need to attach another sheet if you run out of space in the response boxes.

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Deadline for Submission
April 30, 2012

Applications must be postmarked 5:00 p.m. (or time and date stamped if received by fax or e-mail.)

School Name _____

Address _____

Website _____

School District/Division _____

Principal Name _____

Contact Name/Position _____

Contact Signature _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ **Fax** _____

E-mail _____

Type of School ☐ public   ☐ charter   ☐ private

Level of School ☐ elementary   ☐ middle/junior high   ☐ high

School Community ☐ rural   ☐ urban   ☐ suburban   ☐ other

Grade Levels _____

Number of Staff by Role _____ admin _____ teachers _____ school counselors _____ support personnel

Total Enrollment _____

If you are a U.S. school, what is the status of your school making AYP in the past two years?

_____

If you are a Canadian school, what is the level of your school's academic achievement in the past two years?

_____

Percentage of Students

___ American Indian/Alaskan Native

___ Asian/Pacific Islander

___ Hispanic

___ Black (not of Hispanic origin)

___ White (not of Hispanic origin)

___ Multiracial

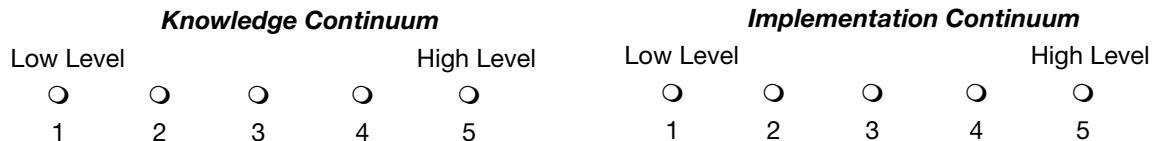___ Undesignated

Percentage of Students

___ Who qualify for special education services

___ Who qualify for free/reduced lunch

___ With Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

___ Who receive financial aid

Narrative Questions

Please respond to the following questions in 500 words or less and, where indicated, rate your school's level of knowledge (what is your understanding of the topic) and implementation (what is going on within your school in this area):
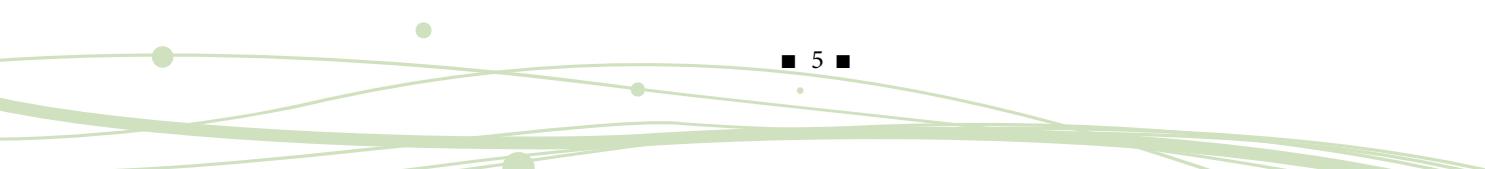
- Review ASCD's Whole Child Tenets and indicators. How do they reflect your current beliefs, policies, and practices?

- Rate your current level of knowledge about and implementation of the whole child approach:

Knowledge Continuum					*Implementation Continuum*				
Low Level				High Level	Low Level				High Level
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

- What types of school team(s) are currently present in your school community and how are they utilized?

- Rate your current level of knowledge about and implementation of school teams:

Knowledge Continuum					*Implementation Continuum*				
Low Level				High Level	Low Level				High Level
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

- Consider the benefits and requirements of ASCD's Whole Child Network; why is your school interested in this opportunity?

    - What does your school expect to gain from participating in the ACSD's Whole Child Network?

    - What are your school's specific needs or areas of interest that you would like to work on by being a part of the Whole Child Network?

- To give us a clear understanding of your school community, tell us about the school's philosophy of learning. For example,

    - What is your school's theory on teaching practices?
    - What type of engagement is there within the surrounding community?
    - How do parents and families participate?

- What is your current professional development approach?

- What is your school's approach to the collection of data?

    - How does your school community track and gather data?
    - How does your school use the data for decision making?

Signature Form

Each person involved in the preparation of this application must sign and date this form.

This application was prepared and completed by the following:

First Name _____ **Last Name** _____

Position/Role with the School _____

Work Address (if different from school address) _____

City _____ **State/Province** _____ **Zip/Postal Code** _____

Telephone _____ **Fax** _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

First Name _____ **Last Name** _____

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