

Education Excellence/ Michigan's Best Awards

Category: Improving Student Achievement–English/ Social Studies

Year: 2008

Level: High School

Agency: Local District

Region: Southeastern Counties

School: Milan High School

District: Milan Area Schools

Award Title: Elementary Reading

Description: The ability to read impacts every aspect of a child's life while in school and beyond. Elementary Reading is a powerful course for 11th- and 12th-grade students. It combines teaching (EBLI) evidence-based literacy instruction and mentoring skills. High school students at a variety of reading levels benefit from the learning strategies. They then pass their knowledge on to elementary students by serving as mentors and literacy tutors. Both the tutors and their young pupils improve their reading and writing skills, and gain self-confidence. Elementary students say that their improved reading skills and having a high school learning buddy makes them feel more positive about coming to school and makes them believe in their ability to succeed.

The Education Excellence Award program recognizes original, innovative programs in various categories that positively affect student achievement in local and intermediate school districts.

In the first phase of judging, the top three programs in each category will be selected for Education Excellence awards. Honorees will receive trophies, media recognition and metal street signs to post outside their school proclaiming them a Winner 2008 Education Excellence Award.

In phase two, Education Excellence winners will be judged for best in category. The programs selected will receive MASB's highest honor, the Michigan's Best Award. These will be presented at MASB's 2008 Annual Fall Conference. Michigan's Best winners receive a cash award of \$1,500, thanks to the generosity of SET SEG School Insurance Specialists, which continues to pledge sponsorship funds to support this important program.