

# Preparing for the Palmetto's Finest Award





# How to Get Started

- Go to [www.scasa.org](http://www.scasa.org)
- Download award application – Due September 20
  - Principal must be a current SCASA member
  - Principal must have been a principal at the school for the previous 2 years
  - School must be able to provide 3 years of data which means the school must have been in existence 4 years
  - School must have an All Clear rating through the entire awards process.
  - Superintendent must complete certification form
- Meet with staff and do self- reflection
- Meet with stakeholders (SIC, PTO, Community) and get them on board



# Completing the Application

- Application is first impression of the school
- Should have input from many but read as one voice
- Check data and ensure statistics are correct
- Proofread
- Submit the application & application on time, no exceptions
- *Application must be emailed. Delivered applications will not be accepted.*
- Submit signed assurance page from school principal
- Schools applying in the Special Category should complete the Special Schools Category Questionnaire and submit as part of the application



# New Changes to the Process

- Middle and High School will be combined into one category – Secondary
  - Three Categories for the award—Elementary, Secondary, and Special Category
- To uphold the integrity of the award and the process, we will need an adequate pool of applicants in each category to continue with the awards program for the year – 5-10 applicants in each category.



## Data

- Quantitative – Achievement data used to clearly articulate student growth
- Qualitative – Academic growth based on authentic assessments
- Tell your story – Be able to explain any change in data



# Components of the Application

- Student Achievement = 25 points
- Instructional Program = 25 points
- School Culture = 25 points
- Professional Learning Community = 25 points

**Applications will be scored, and all applicants may not receive a site visit.**





# Site Visits

- Each school that applies will be scored based on its application and may not receive a visit
- All finalists receive a second visit
- The same team of visitors will each finalist school in a category



# Site Visits

- Principals will be given a two-week range during which the first visit will take place
- Visitors arrive before school day begins and stay through dismissal
- Visitors validate application information
- Day of visit should be a typical day
- Students should be engaged in learning
- Quality instruction should take place





# After the First Visit

- Palmetto's Finest Committee reconvenes and reviews the initial results
- Finalists are notified
- Winners are announced via live broadcast through ETV in spring



# Questions?

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