

2017 Better Beginnings Award Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1	Include Evidence in the 5 Statements of Nomination	Comments
					Statements MAY include the Examples of Evidence Below	
<p><i>“Better beginnings make for stronger completions.”</i></p> <p><i>Explanation of how the teacher has accomplished this in their career.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable access to learning • Developing and maintaining high standards • Supports prosocial behavior: caring, sharing, cooperation, and empathy • Values and respects students, colleagues, students’ families, and community 	<p>Answer is thoughtful and complete. Includes numerous supports and evidence the teacher has accomplished this in their career.</p>	<p>Answer is complete. Includes sufficient support and evidence the teacher has accomplished this in their career.</p>	<p>Answer is complete. Includes limited support and evidence the teacher this in their career.</p>	<p>Answer is incomplete and/or lacks sufficient support and evidence the teacher has accomplished this in their career.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes connections to subject matter and purpose for learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ student work samples ○ projects, ○ activities ○ notes to caregivers ○ webpages ○ newsletters ○ home visits, emails, or phone calls • Provides opportunities for family to participate in the classroom and community • Equity and access to learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lessons ○ activities ○ projects 	
<p><i>Community Involvement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteerism, • Civic activities • School/ community involvements • Broad involvement in the community 	<p>Answer demonstrates exceptional commitment to the community through current and sustained service-oriented activities.</p>	<p>Answer demonstrates commitment to the community, through service-oriented activities, however, activities may lack broad or current involvement.</p>	<p>Answer demonstrates limited commitment to the community, through service-oriented activities, however, activities may lack broad or current involvement.</p>	<p>Answer demonstrates little or no community involvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips • Community projects • Guest speakers • Community library visits • Cross age tutoring/mentoring • Collaboration with colleagues • Activities that foster citizenship 	

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<p><i>Classroom Experience and Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging and supporting all students in learning • Connecting student learning to prior knowledge, life experiences, interests • Using a variety of instructional strategies, technology, resources for diverse learning needs • Maintaining environments that are intellectually, emotionally, and physically safe 	<p>Answer fully addresses what makes the teacher an accomplished teacher by providing multiple original, innovative or individualized teaching methods, collaboration, and examples of classroom experiences that engage all students.</p>	<p>Answer partially addresses what makes the teacher an outstanding teacher which includes original, innovative or individualized teaching methods, collaboration, and examples of classroom experiences that is engaging for most students.</p>	<p>Answer addresses in a limited way what makes the teacher an outstanding teacher which includes original, innovative or individualized teaching methods, collaboration, and classroom experiences that is engaging for some students.</p>	<p>Answer does not address what makes the teacher an outstanding teacher which includes original, innovative or individualized teaching methods, collaboration, and classroom experiences that are engaging for students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fosters self-assessment in students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ student work samples • Uses media and technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ video ○ student work ○ art ○ internet based projects • Example activities reflective of students’ backgrounds, knowledge, and skills • Is responsive to students’ needs, provides support for all students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lessons ○ activities ○ student work samples with feedback ○ projects 	
<p><i>Student Success</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student centered classroom • Class routines • Students have roles and responsibilities • Activity connections to real life • Problem solving activities • Develops an awareness about the community and neighborhood 	<p>Answer demonstrates how the teacher provides students with many opportunities to succeed and how the classroom is designed to help students succeed outside the classroom.</p>	<p>Answer partially addresses how the teacher provides students with opportunities to succeed and how the classroom is designed to help students succeed outside the classroom.</p>	<p>Answer addresses in a limited way the teacher provides students with opportunities to succeed and how the classroom is designed to help students succeed outside the classroom.</p>	<p>Answer does not address how the teacher provides students with opportunities to succeed and how the classroom is designed to help students succeed outside the classroom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiates instruction • Fosters relationships and develops activities for students to be successful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ activities ○ projects ○ curriculum that respects students’ culture ○ routines ○ classroom jobs/roles • Engages students in a variety of instructional strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ group projects ○ cooperative learning 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involving students in self-assessment 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> team building individual activities related to students' interests and needs Allows time for students to acquire and practices skills: personal involvement beyond the class day, involvement that includes colleagues, caregivers, community support 	
<p>Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values and respects students' cultural backgrounds Communication with students, parents and co-workers show understanding of cultural norms Uses a variety of techniques to communicate and work with students, parents, and co-workers Established thoughtful relationships with students, colleagues, parents and community 	<p>Answer demonstrates the creation of a fully inclusive learning community, respectful of diversity among students, parents, and coworkers.</p>	<p>Answer demonstrates the inclusion of all students in the learning community with respect to diversity.</p>	<p>Answer demonstrates an attempt with limited success creating an inclusive learning community.</p>	<p>Answer demonstrates little or no success establishing an inclusive learning environment with respect to diversity among students, parents, and co-workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates an all inclusive culture for students and colleagues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses diverse images themed cultural activities Lessons and activities promote multiculturalism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> celebrations music art literature <p>Other evidence could include references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Notes to caregivers Webpages Newsletters Home visits Emails phone calls 	