



## **VSLA Exemplary Literacy Award**

### **Overview**

The Exemplary Literacy Award is given annually by Virginia State Literacy Association to recognize outstanding literacy programs at the Elementary, Middle, or High School level. This is a school-wide award designed to recognize schools that demonstrate literacy excellence. Schools that promote best practices and foster literacy achievement should consider applying for this award. The application must include the literacy program of the entire school and should be supported by administration.

### **Criteria and Award Details**

1. All public and private elementary and secondary schools are eligible for the award. The applicant must be a member of VSLA for the school to be eligible.
2. A fully completed application form (including signatures of support) must be submitted by the award deadline.
3. Applications will be reviewed by the Exemplary Literacy Committee and finalists will be selected. Schools accepted as finalists will be visited by a VSLA committee and one winning program will be chosen.
4. The winning program should serve as a model for other schools and teachers.
5. The winning school will receive an award of \$500.00 and will be recognized with a certificate at the VSLA conference. In the year following the award, the winning school will participate in a session at the VSLA conference to disseminate best practices and share success with other schools and councils. Finalist schools will also be recognized by VSLA for their exemplary school efforts.

### **Timeline**

**Application Due:** December 30

**Name of Recipient and Rubric to Awards Chair:** February 1

**Notification of All Applicants:** February 6

**Presentation of Award:** VSLA Annual Conference

Send your application form via Word Document, PDF and/or scanned document to the VSLA Exemplary Literacy Chair.

Chair: Alison Setzer

Email: [asetzer@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:asetzer@ycsd.york.va.us)

## **VSLA Exemplary Literacy Award Application**

Year \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

1. Principal's Name  
Address  
Phone  
E-mail  
Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(This signature must be included in order for application to be complete)
2. School District:  
District Administrator's Name (Superintendent or Designee)  
Address  
Phone  
Email  
District Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(This signature must be included in order for application to be complete)
3. List the names of VSLA members at your school:
4. Contact Person (the name of the individual to be contacted regarding this application):  
Name  
Email  
Position
5. Demographic Information:  
Public  
Private

Describe your School Population/Characteristics (Poverty & School Information, Location, urban, rural or suburban, etc.):

Attach a 3-5 page response that describes why your school has an Exemplary Literacy Program. Respond to the question, "How does your school advance literacy in Virginia?" Consider including information on school strengths across a variety of areas in your response: Implementation of Research/Best Practices in Reading and Writing, Focus on Student Learning, Programs/Initiatives, Innovation, Professional Development, Literacy Materials, and Community Involvement.

## **Exemplary Literacy Award Rubric**

School Visit Review Criteria:

Please rate each item below and comment on the visit. A score of 1 demonstrates little evidence and a score of 5 demonstrates strong evidence:

Name of School:

Was the application complete & does it include literacy initiatives?    1    2    3    4    5

Does the school demonstrate overall literacy excellence?                    1    2    3    4    5

Is the school advancing literacy in Virginia?                                    1    2    3    4    5

Has high-quality professional development been offered?                    1    2    3    4    5

Does the school have a strong focus on student learning?                    1    2    3    4    5

Is the school innovative (materials, community, programs)?                    1    2    3    4    5

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

Do you recommend this finalist school be awarded the Exemplary Literacy Award?

Yes    No