

*Louisiana Council of Exceptional Children
Yes I Can! Awards*

Nomination – Please read all criteria and guidelines carefully before attempting to complete the following application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

The 2008 Yes I Can! State Awards Program

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the leading association for special educators, works to improve the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. The *Yes I Can!* Awards honor students with disabilities who excel. These awards celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; encourage these individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

Nominations are made by teachers, principals, related service providers, friends, and parents. Each individual nominated for the *Yes I Can!* Awards will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

Each year children and youth with disabilities are recognized for their accomplishments through the Louisiana State program Awards Program as well as the International Program. in the following categories:

- ◆ Academics ◆ Arts ◆ Athletics ◆ Community Service ◆ Employment
- ◆ Extracurricular Activities ◆ Independent Living Skills ◆ Technology ◆ Self-Advocacy

EACH INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED FOR THE YES I CAN! PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT PERSONALLY INSCRIBED WITH HIS/HER NAME SUITABLE FOR FRAMING.

BRILLE CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO CHECK THE BOX ON THE BOTTOM OF THE NOMINATION FORM.

TO NOMINATE: Nominees for the Yes I Can! Award program must be 2-21 years old. Each nominee is eligible in ONE category. **Both nominators must select the same category or the nomination will be considered incomplete by the Yes I Can! Selection Committee.**

Send nomination forms to:

**Bonnie Buckelew
401 Northeast Street
Jonesboro, LA 71251**

**If you have any questions contact at
buckelew@jpsb.us or call at (318)259-8802, ext. 24**

**ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN
October 31, 2008**

Nominee Eligibility Requirements

- Candidates must be 2 – 21 years of age when they are nominated
- Each nominee is eligible in only **one** category and may be nominated in only **one** category
- Each candidate must be nominated by two individuals (*e.g.*, teacher, principal, related service provider, friend, parent)
- The nominee must have an identified disability

Award Selection Considerations

- **The Selection Committee looks at not only the student’s achievements but also the severity of the student’s disability in relation to his or her achievements**

Rules and Instructions for Nomination

- Complete the Nomination Form, providing specific information about the nominee. The more complete and detailed the information, the better. ***Make sure you provide information about the nominee that addresses their achievements in the category in which he/she is nominated.***
- All information requested must be typed using font size 12. The Selection Committee will not review handwritten forms.
- **Each candidate may be nominated in one category only.**
- Double check that the nominee’s name is spelled correctly, since it will be printed on his or her Certificate of Achievement.

What to Submit and How to Submit the Nomination Packet

- Include the completed Nomination Form, Sections A-F. Please note:
 - **Two letters of recommendation must be included.** See Section E of the Nomination Form for more details.
 - Supplementary materials that support the nomination (photos, news clippings, etc.) See Section F of the Nomination Form for more details.
- Include one 5 X 7 color photo of the nominee. Write the student’s name on the back.

How to Submit the Nomination Packet

- **Please note: All materials submitted become the property of CEC and will not be returned.**
- All nominations must be submitted in hard copy.
- All nomination materials (including supporting documentation) must be submitted and mailed in the same packet
- Submit one copy of all nominations materials and one 5 x 7 color photo of the student. Each packet should be placed in a softbound folder (presentation folder, file folder, or spiral or loose-leaf binder). The candidate’s name and category should be on the cover of each folder. Include a table of contents as well as tabbed and titled dividers for each section.
- Submit one copy of all nominations materials and one 5 x 7 color photo of the student. Each packet should be placed in a softbound folder (presentation folder, file folder, or spiral or loose-leaf binder). The candidate’s name and category should be on the cover of each folder. Include a table of contents as well as tabbed and titled dividers for each section.

• Each Nomination Packet should be organized as follows:

- A. Nominee Category Sheet
- B. Nominee Information
- C. Nominator Information
- D. Background Information
- E. Supporting Documentation
- F. Additional Documentation

• **Nomination packets must be postmarked by October 31, 2008**

• **Mail the entire nomination packet to:**

**Bonnie Buckelew
401 Northeast Street
Jonesboro, LA 71251**

- 7. Nomination forms must be postmarked **no later** than **October 31, 2008**.
- 8. Both nomination forms must be returned together. The Selection Committee will not review any applications that are not complete and/or mailed in the same package.
- 9. Send completed forms to:

**Bonnie Buckelew
401 Northeast Street
Jonesboro, LA 71251**

10. Each state winner will receive a \$100.00 cash award and plaque. All state winners will advance to the international level.

NOTE: Nominators should take care in completing the nomination form. The more complete and detailed the information, the better.

***Yes I Can!* Awards Nomination Form**

Applications must be typed using a 12 point font. Handwritten forms will not be reviewed.

All nominations must be postmarked no later than Oct. 31, 2008. Mail to:

***Bonnie Buckelew
401 Northeast Street
Jonesboro, LA 71251***

Section A: Nominee Category Sheet

Name of Nominee: _____

Please check only ONE Category of Achievement.

_____ **ACADEMICS** – achievement in a particular subject area such as math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, foreign language, etc. or a high level of achievement on standardized tests, etc.

_____ **ARTS** – achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression, etc.

_____ **ATHLETICS** – achievement in motor skills or a particular activity through a setting such as intramurals, Special Olympics, physical education classes, or after-school athletic activities

_____ **COMMUNITY SERVICE** – contributions to the community through activities such as volunteer work, youth work, clean-up campaigns, etc.

_____ **EMPLOYMENT** – achievement through work experience in either workshop settings or the competitive job market

_____ **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY** – achievement in organized activities through groups such as Boy/Girl Scouts, church, clubs, or other activities

_____ **INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS** – achievement in mastering activities for daily self-sufficiency such as personal hygiene, cooking, dressing, use of public transportation, etc.

_____ **SELF-ADVOCACY** – achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one's goals, and/or effective in obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others

_____ **TECHNOLOGY** – significant achievement through the use of computerized devices and equipment

Yes I Can! Awards
Section B: Nominee Information

<i>Full Name of Nominee (please check spelling)</i>	
<i>Street Address</i>	
<i>City</i>	
<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
<i>Nominee's Sex</i>	
<i>Nominee's Age</i>	
<i>Nominee's Birthdate</i>	
<i>Nominee's Disability</i>	
<i>Parent/Guardian Name(s)</i>	
<i>Home Phone</i>	
<i>Work Phone</i>	
<i>Parent/Guardian E-mail Address</i>	
<i>Nominee's School</i>	
<i>School Phone Number</i>	
<i>School Fax Number</i>	
<i>School E-mail Address</i>	
<i>Principal's Name</i>	
<i>Principal's E-mail Address</i>	
<i>School District</i>	
<i>Please check if a Braille certificate is needed</i>	

Yes I Can! Awards
Section C: Nominator Information

Name of Nominee _____

<i>Nominator's Name</i>	
<i>Street Address</i>	
<i>City</i>	
<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
<i>Home Phone</i>	
<i>Work Phone</i>	
<i>Fax Number</i>	
<i>E-mail Address</i>	
<i>How do you know the nominee?</i>	
<i>Are you a CEC member?</i>	
<i>If yes, list your CEC ID number</i>	
<i>Nominator's Signature</i>	
<i>Date</i>	

Yes I Can! Awards
Section D: Background Information

Name of Nominee: _____

1. Background Information

A. Describe in 150 words or less the challenges this student encountered prior to his/her current accomplishments (e.g., difficulty with reading).

B. Describe in 150 words or less the current type of special education services provided to the nominee (e.g., general education class with special education consultation, inclusion, special education classes).

Has the student's educational services changed in the past two years? If yes, describe those changes in 50 words or less.

2. Describe the student's accomplishments *in the category in which he/she is nominated.*
(Consider creativity, innovation, and significance of the student's accomplishments to the individual and others.)

A. Describe the student's achievements and accomplishments in 150 words or less. You can add appendices that show examples of the student's achievement.

B. Describe the setting in which the accomplishments occurred (i.e., home, school, community, work).

C. Describe in 150 words or less the impact of the student's accomplishments on him- or herself and/or others.

3. Systems Supports

A. In 100 words or less, describe how your community/school system supported this student.

Yes I Can! Awards
Section E: Supporting Documentation

1. The Nominations packet must include two letters of recommendation. One letter must come from a professional educator (teacher, principal, school administrator, counselor, consultant, educational assistant). The second letter may come from an educator or other individual who knows the student well (teacher, principal, counselor, parent, student). The letters should state:

A. Why the student deserves the award, particularly in the area in which the student is Nominated

B. Any obstacles the student has overcome

2. Suggested student documentation for each category:

- Academics—school transcripts, report cards, accelerated programs, academic awards, work samples, statement of change in student's academic achievement
- Arts—copies of artwork, CDs of music, dance performances, drama performances, programs

- Athletics—awards, teams participated in, statements from athletic directors or P.E. teachers
- Community Service—certificates, record of activities, awards, statements from group leaders
- Employment—employment history, performance reviews, statements from employers/transition officers/co-workers, certificates, awards
- Extracurricular Activities—record of activities, statements from activity leaders, certificates, awards
- Independent Living Skills—record of progress made in acquiring skills, statement of achievement from teacher/coach
- Self-Advocacy—statement of how the student educates others (teachers, students, community) on their needs or the needs of others with disabilities, examples of the accommodations the student has requested to enhance learning/accessibility
- Technology—record of technology used, how it has impacted the student or others, skills the student has learned through technology use

Yes I Can! Awards

Section F: Additional Documentation (Optional)

Following are suggestions for additional documentation that may be provided:

1. Candidate's personal comments on achievement (**highly recommended**)
2. Newspaper articles
3. Documentation of other awards or recognition for achievement
4. Other information about the nominee