

FAQ

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

What is the Herb Kohl Leadership Award?

The Herb Kohl Leadership Award is a highly prestigious honor that recognizes exceptional school leaders in Wisconsin. Each year, up to 17 outstanding principals and administrators are selected—from public and private schools—for their exemplary leadership and commitment to education.

Each award recipient receives a one-time \$6,000 personal award, and their school also receives an additional \$6,000 grant, underscoring the award's dual focus on both individual excellence and school-wide impact.

Who is eligible?

Pre-K through Grade 12 Wisconsin principals must first be nominated online by a parent, teacher, student, community member or administrator before they can apply. Previous Kohl Leadership Award recipients are ineligible. However, principals who received Kohl teacher fellowships in the past or Kohl scholarships while in high school are eligible. Applicants who have previously been nominated but not selected as a Leadership Award recipient may also re-apply if nominated.

How can I nominate a Principal?

Use the online nomination form that appears on this website. Potential candidates cannot self-nominate.

After a Leader is nominated, what is the next step?

Nominated principals are notified of their nomination before the current award cycle closes. If they choose to apply, they must complete the online application available in the link they receive from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation.

What is the application deadline?

The submission deadline is posted on the important information section of the website.

What is the selection process?

The Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) reviews and verifies each

applicant's submission. Successful applicants' materials are forwarded to a State Selection Committee in January. Representatives of the Kohl Educational Foundation, Cooperative Educational Service Agencies and Milwaukee Public Schools, the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, and state education-related associations serve on the State Selection Committee. The committee scores applications in January. Applicants who are selected to receive Leadership Awards are contacted by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in late March/early April.

How will an applicant be notified if they have been chosen to receive a Kohl Leadership Award?

Applicants who are selected to receive Leadership Awards are notified by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in late March/early April via email from contact@herbkohlphilanthropies.org. The Leadership awards and matching school grants are sent directly to principals before the end of the school year.

Are there restrictions on how the Leadership Award may be used?

There are no restrictions on how a Leadership Award recipient may use their individual \$6,000 award. The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation suggests that the schools use the \$6,000 matching grant to further the professional goals of the principal and/or for innovation in education.