

Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Broward County Public Schools Named 2008 Finalists for \$1 Million Broad Prize

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LOS ANGELES - The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation announced today that Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Broward County Public Schools are among five school districts that have been chosen as finalists for the 2008 Broad Prize for Urban Education, an annual \$1 million award that honors urban school districts across the country that are making the greatest progress in raising student achievement.

Other finalists this year include:

- Aldine Independent School District, near Houston
- Brownsville Independent School District, on the Texas-Mexico border
- Long Beach Unified School District, Calif.



The Broad (rhymes with “road”) Prize for Urban Education honors urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low- income students.

The winner of The Broad Prize, to be announced on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, will receive \$500,000 in scholarships for graduating seniors. Each of the four finalist districts will receive \$125,000 in scholarships.

“While numerous urban school districts are struggling to prepare students today for the jobs of tomorrow, these finalists are demonstrating that academic progress in our cities is possible and is happening,” said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. “Everyone involved, from parents to teachers to staff in these districts, can be proud of their success. Their progress in improving student achievement is a model for other districts around the country.”

One commonality among this year’s finalists, all of which serve significant percentages of Hispanic students, is that Hispanic students in each district made notable gains on multiple indicators. For example, Hispanic students in all finalist districts both outperformed and showed greater improvement than their peers in similar districts in their respective states. In addition, all five made notable progress in narrowing achievement gaps between Hispanic students and their white peers.

This year is the third consecutive year Miami-Dade has been a finalist and the first time for Broward. It is the first time in The Broad Prize’s seven-year history that two Florida districts have been in the running.

Previous Broad Prize winners include the New York City Department of Education (2007); Boston Public Schools (2006); Norfolk Public Schools (2005), Va.; the Garden Grove Unified School District (2004), Calif.; the Long Beach Unified School District (2003) and the Houston Independent School District (2002).

This year, 100 of the largest urban school districts nationwide were eligible for The Broad Prize. The five finalist districts were selected by a review board of 19 prominent education researchers, policy leaders, practitioners and executives from leading universities, national education associations, think-tanks and foundations. The review board evaluated publicly available academic performance data compiled and analyzed by MPR Associates, Inc., a leading national education research consulting firm, and selected the five districts.

Among the reasons that Miami-Dade was chosen as a Broad Prize finalist:

- In 2007:
 - *Miami-Dade's low-income, African-American and Hispanic students outperformed their peers in Florida districts serving students with similar income levels, according to The Broad Prize methodology. African-American students outperformed their peers in reading at all grade levels (elementary, middle and high school) and in math in middle and high school. Hispanic students outperformed their peers in reading and math at all grade levels. Low-income students outperformed their peers in reading and math in middle and high school.*
 - *Miami Dade's Hispanic students achieved higher average proficiency rates than their state counterparts in reading and math at all levels.*
- Between 2004 and 2007:
 - *Miami-Dade increased the percentage of all students who achieved proficiency in reading and math at all grade levels faster than the state.*
 - *Miami-Dade narrowed achievement gaps between the district's Hispanic students and their white peers in reading and math at all grade levels.*
 - *Miami-Dade narrowed achievement gaps between low-income students and their non-low-income peers faster than the state at all grade levels for reading and in elementary and middle school math.*
 - *SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement exam participation rates for African-American and Hispanic students rose.*

Among the reasons that Broward was chosen as a Broad Prize finalist:

- In 2007:
 - *Broward's Hispanic and African-American students outperformed their peers in other Florida districts serving students with similar income levels, according to The Broad Prize methodology. Hispanic students outperformed their peers in reading and math at all grade levels (elementary, middle and high school). African-American students outperformed their peers in reading at all grade levels and in math in middle and high school.*
 - *Broward's African-American and Hispanic students achieved higher average proficiency rates than the state average for those student groups in reading and math at all grade levels.*
- Between 2004 and 2007:
 - *Broward showed greater improvement than similar Florida districts in math at all grade levels and in middle and high school reading, according to The Broad Prize methodology. In addition, Broward's African-American students showed greater improvement than their peers in similar districts in reading and math at all levels.*
 - *Broward narrowed achievement gaps between Hispanic students and their white peers in reading and math at all grade levels and between African-American students and their white peers in math at all levels and in elementary and middle school reading.*

- *Broward also narrowed achievement gaps between its low-income students and the state average for non-low-income students in math at all grade levels and in elementary and middle school reading.*
- *SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement exam participation rates for African-American and Hispanic students rose.*

Over the next two months, teams of educational researchers and practitioners led by SchoolWorks, an educational consulting company, will conduct site visits in each finalist district to gather qualitative information, interview district administrators, conduct focus groups with teachers and principals and observe classrooms. The teams will also talk to parents, community leaders, school board members and union representatives. A selection jury of prominent individuals from business, industry, education and public service will then review both the performance data and the qualitative site visit reports to choose the winning school district.

For more information about The Broad Prize, this year's finalists and the review board, please visit www.broadprize.org.

MPR Associates, Inc., one of the nation's leading education research consulting firms, is committed to strengthening elementary, secondary and postsecondary education and to expanding opportunities for youth and adults. MPR Associates manages the rigorous Broad Prize selection process. For more information, please visit www.mprinc.com.

SchoolWorks is an educational consulting company based in Beverly, Mass. Using a research-based rubric for district quality, SchoolWorks leads a site visit team of researchers and practitioners through the collection and analysis of interviews, documents and observations of Broad Prize finalist district practices. For more information, please visit www.schoolworks.com.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is a national venture philanthropy established by entrepreneur and philanthropist Eli Broad to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. The Broad Foundation's education work is focused on dramatically improving urban K-12 public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition. The Broad Foundation's Internet address is www.broadfoundation.org.

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