

National Lutheran School Accreditation

School Shepherd Award Guidelines and Policies

School Shepherd Award Introduction

The School Shepherd Award has been established by National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) to honor a faithful pastor who has provided outstanding encouragement, support and service to his school. This award allows NLSA to recognize an outstanding school pastor and identify the practices and tangible means of support that have positively impacted the school he serves.

Guidelines for Nomination

A Pastor who is nominated:

- *understands and articulates a clear philosophy of Lutheran education;*
- *provides spiritual encouragement, guidance and support for the school community;*
- *engages and participates in school activities;*
- *works well with the governing body of the school and/or parent advisory associations;*
- *champions the school;*
- *has completed a minimum of three (3) years of service at the church and school (birth through Grade 12) in which he serves;*
- *is endorsed by the school administrator(s) and the families served;*
- *is endorsed by the LCMS District Education Executive and District President;*

Timeline

1. At the time of the NLSA site visit, a visitation team identifies a pastoral candidate for recognition as the national NLSA School Shepherd award recipient based on the criteria provided.
2. Within two weeks of the conclusion of the NLSA site visit, the visiting team captain completes the *NLSA School Shepherd Award Visit Team Nomination* form (available online) and submits it to the LCMS District Education Executive. All nominations must be received in the District office no later than May 15th of the year of accreditation.
3. The District's Accreditation Commission reviews all *NLSA School Shepherd Award Visit Team Nomination* forms received and selects no more than two nominated Pastors for potential national recognition. No later than June 15th, the District office will send an *NLSA School Shepherd Nominee Application Packet* to the nominated Pastor(s) to individually complete and submit to the NLSA National Office.
4. All *NLSA School Shepherd Nominee Application Packets* must be received in the NLSA National Office no later than July 15th of the accreditation year.
5. At the NLSA National Accreditation Commission (NAC) meeting at the end of July, all applications received are processed by a review committee selected by the NLSA National Director. Upon review, the committee recommends a single candidate to the NLSA NAC for approval.
6. The National School Shepherd Award will be presented at an event agreed upon by National and District officials to recognize the award recipient for his accomplishment.