

2023 App Round 1: Amanda Austin

Louisiana Department of Education: A Call For Excellent Educators

Which award do you want to apply for?

Principal of the Year

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department, in partnership with

Dream Teachers
and the

Louisiana Association of Principals

, honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

The Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year awards programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those educators who are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

Criteria- An exemplary candidate for Teacher and Principal of the Year is one who:

- Demonstrates **excellence and expertise** in the field, **guiding students** (and for principals, also teachers) of **all** backgrounds and abilities to **achieve success**.
- Demonstrates **leadership and innovation** in and outside of the school building walls and **helps students/education stakeholders be successful**.
- **Builds collaborative relationships with colleagues, students and families** to create a **school culture** that is respectful, inclusive and **positively impacts student growth and learning**.
- **Deliberately connects** the classroom/school to the **community** to **positively impact the students, school and community**.
- Is **inspiring, compelling, professional** and expresses themselves in an **engaging and clear way**, has the ability to **connect with and represent** the state.

Resources

To access application resources and materials, visit the
Award's page Resource Library.

Naming Convention - When uploading documents within your application, please title each document using this naming convention:

TOY or POY, First and Last Name, Document Name. For example, "TOYMary SmithReflection Response Upload"

I. Basic Information

First Name

Amanda

Last Name

Austin

Title

Dr.

Phone number with area code (preferable cell). List phone number with hyphens. For example, 225-342-1234.

[REDACTED]

Does this phone number receive text messages?

Yes

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Ethnicity

Black or African American

Division Level

High School

If you serve students across multiple division levels, please check the box below.

Multiple Divisions

How many years have you been the principal at this particular school? (enter numeric value, such as "6.")

1

How many total years total have you been a principal at any/all schools combined? (Enter a numeric value, such as "12.")

5

If you served in either of the following roles, please select the checkbox(es) and then add the number of years served for each role in the textbox(s) below.

Principal at another school(s), Assistant Principal

Number of years served as Assistant Principal

3

Number of years served as Principal at another school

4

Are you a member of the Louisiana Association of Principals? (Note: Membership is not a requirement for being named a state-level honoree. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Joseph David at joseph.david@laprincipals.org.)

Yes

Professional Bio Add your professional bio in the textbox below. Your Professional Bio should be written in third person. (250 words or less) Please follow the guidelines outlined

here

Add Professional Bio Here

Dr. Amanda Austin is currently serving Iberville Parish as the Director of the Iberville Math, Science, and Arts (MSA) Academy East in St. Gabriel. MSA Academy East is the magnet program of East Iberville High School. With 15 years of experience, her extensive knowledge of STEAM academic and extracurricular programming, in elementary, middle, and high school settings made this position a best fit. Dr. Austin's career in education did not start with her taking the traditional route. She earned a Bachelors in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology with a minor in African and African American Studies from Louisiana State University, alternative teaching certification and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana College, as well as gained an endorsement for Educational Leadership from McNeese State University. She also pursued a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University. One of Dr. Austin's proudest professional achievements was being selected as the Principal to reopen North Iberville High School (NIHS) after the school had been shuttered for over a decade. With community support, input from district leadership, and full hiring autonomy, NIHS is a thriving traditional school with a STEM magnet program. With her recent participation in the Louisiana Superintendent's Academy and acceptance into ASCD's Champion in Education cohort, Dr. Austin continuously strives to grow as an instructional leader and expects to lead her school to meet or exceed each student's individual growth target. Through teamwork with all stakeholders, she believes that all students can and will succeed.

II. School Related Information

School "System/District" Name (please start typing) Select "Other" if your school system isn't listed.

Iberville Parish

If your school system/district was not listed above, please enter here

"School" Name (please start typing) School name is required. If your school is not listed, please proceed to enter name in next box.

East Iberville Elementary/High School

If your school is not listed, please enter the school name in the textbox below. Add full school name, such as "L.B. Landry Walker High School" and not "Landry Walker." You may find the full school name in the LA School and Center Finder List, see

here

If your school is not listed above, please enter here

Iberville Math, Science, and Arts Academy East

Number of students at the school:

340

Were you at a different school last year?

Yes

In the textbox below, please add the name of the school and school system/district where you were last year. You may find the full school name in the LA School and Center Finder List, see

here

Please enter name of school and school system/district here

North Iberville High School (Iberville Parish School Board)

Grade(s) at Your Current School:

Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth

School Website URL (optional)

https://ipsb.net/o/2808/home

Current School Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

School Phone Number (including area code). List phone number with hyphens, such as 123-456-7890.

[REDACTED]

Region Number- Click the Region List link to find the region number for your school system parish. If you are a charter/independent school, please select the parish where your school is located. For example, if your school is Lake Charles Charter, even though your school is not part of Calcasieu Parish, you would select region 5 as your school is located in the Calcasieu Parish "region." See

Region List Here.

Check Your Region Number

2

***III. Media Related Information**

Professional Facebook profile/name (optional)

Amanda Austin

Professional Instagram profile (optional)

dr_amandaaustin

Twitter handle (optional)

dr_amandaaustin

Add an original social media quote (that could be used in print) in the textbox below that captures the essence of you as an educator. (280 character limit)

My purpose is to bring hands-on, meaningful experiences to the lives of my students, and I will diligently work with community, business and industry partners, and district officials to create a world class education for the students and to see the next generation prepared.

Other Social Media Account (optional)

Twitter/ Instagram Handle: @dr_amandaaustin

Personal Blog Site URL (optional)

Personal Website URL (optional)

IV. Awards/Leadership Roles

List any national awards or recognition you've received (include year won)

2023- ASCD Champion in Education
2022- Retro Report Teacher Ambassador
2022- AMLE Equity in Middle Level Grades Committee
2021- Learning for Justice- Teaching Hard History: American Slavery
2019-2020 Digital Ambassador- Core Advocates
2018- Present ASCD Class of 2018 Emerging Leader
2018- Certified BrainPOP Educator
2016-2018 ASCD Reader Advisory Board
2015-2016 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Learning Center Award

List any state or local awards or recognition you've received (include year won)

2023- Iberville Parish School Board Principal of the Year
2023- Louisiana Superintendent's Academy
2022-Present National Beta Louisiana State Council
2020-2021 Board of Directors- United States Green Building Council- Louisiana
2020-2021 Louisiana Environmental Education Advisor (LDOE)
2019-Present Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline Committee
2015-2016 Participated in the Stand for Children- Louisiana Fellowship Program

Has your work been published in journals or other juried and/or peer-review sources?

Yes

If "yes" please describe

I have written several opinion pieces for ASCD's Educational Leadership magazine that have been published in their Tell Me About section. Also, early on in my educational career I published an article The Moment I Knew I Was Called to Teach on the following sites: Education Post, Second Line Education Blog, Ed Week (Letter to the Editor), Educator's Room, Ed News Daily, and EdPost. I also published a news article on Zero Tolerance Policy in the Lake Charles American Press.

V. Education Information

What year did you receive your baccalaureate degree? Add degree conferral year, such as 2011, in the textbox below.

2009 from Louisiana State University

You may find that information in the Teach LA website

here

Choose the highest degree you have earned.

Doctorate

Did you attend an in-state or out-of-state institution for your undergraduate degree?

In-state

Please select the institution you attended for your undergraduate degree.

Louisiana State University

Did you attend an in-state or out-of-state institution for your masters degree?

In-state

Please select the institution you attended for your masters degree.

Louisiana College

Did you attend an in-state or out-of-state Institution for your specialist degree?

Did you attend an in-state or out-of-state institution for your doctorate degree?

Out-of-state

Please enter the name of your institution in the textbox below.- doctorate degree

Lamar University

List your undergraduate major(s) in the textbox below.

Sociology with a concentration in Criminology

List your graduate major(s)/any additional major(s)/certification areas in the textbox below.

Master of Arts in Teaching

Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership

VI. Certifications

List where you completed your principal/educational leadership preparation program.

McNeese State University- Educational Leadership Certification

****Do you hold a valid LA teaching certificate?***

Upload the most recent version of your teaching/educational leadership certificate. Certificates may be found on the Teach LA website [here](#)

Certificate Upload

VII. Written Reflection Response One

Describe how you engage students and teachers of all backgrounds and abilities in effective teaching and learning on a daily basis. In your response, discuss the deliberate actions you take that positively impact student and educator success, as well as what these actions reveal about your beliefs about leadership, teaching and learning. (750 words or less)

Add Reflection Response One Here:

One of the most important principles that I live and breathe as an educational leader is collective efficacy. Collective efficacy is a shared belief that together we can achieve high achievement that positively affects student outcomes. When it comes to growing and enhancing educational outcomes for stakeholders within a school building, it is shared/ distributive leadership that is the driving force of the school. If all stakeholders associated believe that we can and will achieve our goals, we will be unstoppable academic institution that produces students that are ready and prepared to for college and/or career, teachers who are leaders in their own rights and embody the teaching profession in its highest regard, and ultimate create thriving communities within our great state of Louisiana.

From honing my skills as an instructional leader, soaking in the wisdom and guidance from NIET, to effectively using Master and Mentor Teachers to drive instructional practices in the classroom, I engage students and teachers of all backgrounds and abilities in effective teaching and learning in a myriad of ways that directly impact student achievement and teacher wellbeing. My instructional leadership team meets weekly to determine the best next steps for our campus and in Cluster to increase student achievement in the classrooms by equipping our teachers with the best practices for teaching and learning.

Being at a smaller school means that we have to be intentional about the courses we offer in our master schedule, the college courses such as Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses offered, and Jumpstart Pathways offered from year to year. Our goal for students is for them to graduate with an industry-based credential in one hand and college credits in another hand. Also, we intentionally use our response to intervention/ enrichment period that we call W.I.N. (What I Need) to intentionally focus on skills that were missed from a previous grade level or move them ahead to a more challenging standard.

Asking teachers to stretch themselves inside the classroom could not be accomplished until I truly learned each teachers "why." Why did they become an educator? What inspired them daily to create core memories for their students? I schedule 30-minute visits with every faculty and staff member. These personal conversations with educators allow me to learn their likes and dislikes, ease any anxieties they hold for the upcoming school year, and ultimately voice any concerns or request changes. As a leader, I listen and give them an opportunity to use their voice as it is their campus as much as it is the students' campus. These moments are impactful, and I refer to them throughout the school year. This has been helpful with our teacher retention. Teachers feel valued and ultimately remain on our campus where the administration pours into their craft through teacher leadership opportunities and professional development. Also, teachers are given an opportunity to engage in the spending of school funds for their classroom needs. They receive a spreadsheet at the beginning of the year entitled, 'Needs, Wishes, Professional Development, and Technology'. Teachers appreciate the transparency and the use of aligned funds to teacher and student needs.

Another way I engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in effective teaching and learning is by creating opportunities for students to set academic, behavioral, and social emotional goals each nine weeks marking period. With assistance from the teacher and the administration, we sit down for student conferences where they set goals at the beginning of the nine weeks and reflect on their progress at the end of the same nine weeks. When we have parents/ teachers, students can lead those conversations, because they have been included in the process from the beginning of the year.

It is my belief that working as a highly functioning team, teacher autonomy and ownership, and the inclusion of students in the goal setting process that setting high expectations can increase student and teacher achievement. These beliefs were turned into action as I was the inaugural principal of North Iberville High School's reopening in August of 2022 where we had highest ratings in 3-8 and high school assessment and progress/ student growth in the Iberville Parish school district with an overall score of C. As their school leader, I am proud of the work that was accomplished on the behalf of the students and staff of North Iberville, and I know that this solid foundation will continue to improve teaching and learning practices.

Reflection Response One- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your reflection response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_ Reflection Response One."

POY_Amanda_Austin_Video Response One.pdf

VIII. Written Reflection Response Two

Describe specific ways in which you empower your students and teachers to form connections with the community. Show how these community connections dissolve classroom/school walls and impact student learning/success for all. (750 words or less)

Add Reflection Response Two Here:

Empowering my students and teachers to form connections with the community has been transformative at both North Iberville High School that I led last school year and at the Iberville Math, Science, and Arts Academy- East where I currently lead this school year. In both rural communities, I immersed myself in learning what resources were available or unavailable, and where the school could possibly fill any gaps. I understood this powerful connection between community and school was of our most valuable resources and wanted to communicate their value back to them.

Last school year, I was the inaugural Principal who reopened North Iberville High School (NIHS). North Iberville High School was shuttered in 2008-2009 leaving the communities of Grosse Tete, Rosedale, and Maringouin devastated. After the school board voted on its reopening in April of 2022, I began to assemble a team that would assist me in seeking community input on what the school should look and feel like, especially from alumni members in the area. We asked for old photos, uniforms, trophies, and more. We wanted to bring back a sense of pride to this community. In addition, we added athletic teams to our school programming where we called on alumni to come out and support. The response was overwhelming! Alumni began to return to North Iberville High School and began to ask what they could do and how they could support. Not only was the faculty and staff surprised by the support, but the students in the building began to see their parents on campus more. Community members would come to donate their time on Moving Forward Mondays which was an initiative of the Superintendent where we would open our doors to all community, business, and industry partners. Athletics may have drawn some community members in, but it was the relationships between these stakeholders that transformed the school.

North Iberville High School is now a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School. Capturing Kids' Hearts is all about building meaningful relationships. At the beginning of the implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts, we started to see how relationships transformed the culture and climate of our campus. When visitors walked through the front doors, our student ambassadors gave them a tour of the school. It was amazing to see students proud of their school, the course offerings made available to them, and how they enjoyed coming everyday, because they knew their teachers were looking for them. These relationships do not end at graduation but continue through our graduates' lives.

We also instituted Club Day on our campus. Club Day was our way of ensuring every student had a strong sense of community and belonging. Teachers selected activities that interested them and students matched themselves to those same interests. Students from middle and high school selected two clubs that they would be members of throughout the school year. Once a month both teachers and students took a "break" from traditional learning to engage in extracurricular activities such as Anime Club, Classic Board Games Club, Spanish Club, Youth Legislature/ National History Day Club, and more. We also took it a step further and invited community and business partners to either sponsor a club or join the club for a day of fun. This sense of play increased the bonds between stakeholders on our campus and became one incentive to promote and increase student attendance.

Post Covid, we continued with our virtual school assemblies. These assemblies allowed us to access community and business partners virtually where they shared innovative ideas, demonstrations, and guest speakers with our school community. Individuals such as Dr. Steve Steve Caparotta, Meteorologist, Dr. Calvin Mackie, STEM NOLA Founder, Shaeeta Williams, LSU Director of Basketball Operations, and many more "entered" our school through Google Meets each week and shared life experiences with our students.

Positive and meaningful connections with the community can dissolve walls or barriers and impact student learning and success for all students. Working in small rural communities such as North Iberville High School last year and now the Iberville Math, Science, and Arts Academy- East, community connections are essential. Unfortunately, students living in rural areas may lack access to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) hands-on activities and demonstrations, field trip experiences, and experts in those fields, so bridging the gap between school and community has always been one of my top priorities. My philosophy as a school leader is, if I can not bring my students there, then I will bring them here, to my students.

Reflection Response Two- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your reflection response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_ Reflection Response Two")

POY_Amanda_Austin_Reflection Response Two.pdf

IX. Video Response

What work best describes you as a leader and/or an innovator? In your response, explain your role, the positive impact this work has made on teachers, students and/or the education profession and also share the status of this work today. (2 minutes or less)

Add the YouTube video URL in the space below.

Add your YouTube video URL Here: (video should be 2 minutes or less)

<https://youtu.be/nfq3nKV4jlo>

Video Response- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your video response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Video Response Upload")

POY_Amanda_Austin_Video Response Upload.pdf

X. Education Issue

What is an education issue you are most passionate about? Add your response in the textbox below in five words or less, Ex: Student Voice and Empowerment

Access to quality STEAM Education.

Education Issue- Optional file upload: Use this feature if you want to upload an item, such as a photo, newspaper article, etc., which relates to your education issue topic/work. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Education Issue Upload."

POY_Amanda_Austin_Education Issue Upload.pdf

Add a "Six Word Story" that captures the essence of you as an educator. For example, "He is..because of what was," "Teaching Art is an Abstract Artform" and "I Teach So I Change Lives."

Breaking barriers. Everyday. For every kid.

XI. Uploads

*Note- To view uploads, select small yellow triangle next to the record title at the top of the page and select "preview form"

When uploading documents within your application, please title each document using this naming convention:

TOY or POY_ First Name_Last Name_Document Name. For ex., "TOY_Mary Smith_Reflection Response Upload."

Résumé (two pages or less) Include chronological list of workplaces with specific years at each site.

POY_Amanda_Austin_Resume.pdf

Student Success Data 1 (SLTs or other recent data) Include Year- Please ensure that the data submitted does not contain Student Personal Identifying Information (PII).

POY_Amanda_Austin_SLT2223.pdf

Student Success Data 2 (SLTs or other recent data) Include Year- Please ensure that the data submitted does not contain Student Personal Identifying Information (PII).

POY_Amanda_Austin_SLT2122.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #1:

POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter of Rec 1.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #2:

POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter of Rec 2.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #3:

POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter Of Rec 3.pdf

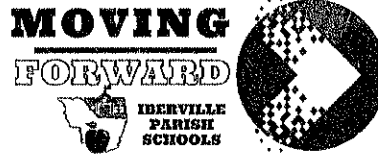
Headshot (Optional) - upload photo

POY_Amanda_Austin_Headshot.jpg

Photo with Students (Optional) - upload photo

XIV. Consent Forms

A) Candidate Consent Form Candidates must acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms included in the state provided consent form.



Iberville Parish School Board

Louis Volron, Jr., Ed.D.

Superintendent

Secretary/Treasurer

Yolanda Laws

President

Daven Tullier

Vice-President

January 5, 2024

Principal of the Year Selection Committee:

I am honored to write this letter of support for Dr. Amanda Austin as a candidate for Louisiana's Principal of the Year. As Secondary Supervisor I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Austin for the past three years. During this time Dr. Austin has assumed various titles. She served as Director of North Iberville STEM Academy, Principal of North Iberville High School, and currently Director of Math, Science, Arts Academy East Iberville. Dr. Austin has done a credible job in each position she has held; most notably she was at the forefront of reopening North Iberville High School. North Iberville High school closed many years ago and in 2022 the high school reopened under Dr. Austin's leadership. She immediately jumped into action and started the school from the ground up. She played an integral role in updating the facilities, developing JumpStart pathways for students, and creating sports programs for students.

Dr. Austin has extensive expertise in pedagogy and content. She can often be seen at conferences presenting to colleagues. Last summer she had the opportunity to present at the Model Schools Conference as well as the ASCD conference. She was named an ASCD Emerging Leader in 2018 and in 2023 was named an ASCD Champion in Education due to her work in inspiring other educators to think beyond the boundaries of their school's four walls. This year Dr. Austin was afforded the opportunity to participate in the Louisiana Superintendent's Academy. She is committed to being a lifelong learner and helping other leaders learn and grow.





Iberville Parish School Board

Louis M. Voiron, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer

Yolanda Laws
President

Daven Tullier
Vice-President

January 3, 2024

Principal of the Year Selection Committee
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Members of the Principal of the Year Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I write this letter in support of Dr. Amanda Austin who is Iberville Parish's nominee for the Principal of the Year for the State of Louisiana. Dr. Austin is currently the Principal of the Math, Science and Arts Academy East in Iberville Parish. I first met Dr. Austin when I became Chief Academic Officer in January 2020 while she was Principal of the Iberville STEM Academy. She was full of energy and displayed tremendous leadership characteristics. From the moment I encountered Dr. Austin, it was quite obvious that she was on a trajectory for a successful administrative career beyond the school level. She is a dedicated, friendly, and committed administrator who will settle for nothing less than her best.

During Dr. Austin's tenure as Principal of the STEM Academy, she promoted and achieved academic success. Dr. Austin is a natural leader and has a true understanding of what students need and the passion to provide for them. While at the STEM Academy, she was presented with an opportunity to do something that rarely occurs. The academy was on a campus that was the former Shady Grove and North Iberville High School which was closed as a school nearly two decades ago. In 2022, the Iberville Parish School Board voted to reopen North Iberville High School. Dr. Austin successfully reopened NIHS and was extremely successful in this endeavor. Her dedication to this monumental achievement for our district was impeccable.

After being appointed as Superintendent in May of 2023, I decided to transfer Dr. Austin to the MSAE Academy in St. Gabriel to expand academic opportunities for students. She has excelled in her time at this campus. In the Fall of 2023, she successfully completed the Louisiana Superintendent's Academy and I was able to personally observe her leadership capacity with peers from throughout the state.

Having served as Dr Austin's CAO and Superintendent of Schools over the past four years, I have been fortunate to witness her career path and her ability to effectively lead educators in the best interest of her students. She possesses all qualities to serve as Louisiana's Principal of the Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis Voiron, Jr.' The signature is stylized and cursive.

Louis Voiron, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dr. Austin is dedicated to ensuring students learn in a safe and instructionally focused environment. Under her leadership North Iberville High School was named a Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase School for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year. She models and promotes professional ethics and she is known for her consistency and fairness regarding decisions that impact all students and educators on her campus. Dr. Austin is a kind, creative and sincere educator. Her faculty embraces her knowledge and expertise. She exemplifies this through the positive relationship she has with her leadership team, teachers, and students. I am always impressed by her eagerness and dedication.

Dr. Austin is a high-energy self-starter who quickly assumes responsibility and is not afraid to face new challenges and situations. She is not afraid to build collaborative relationships with colleagues, students, and families. She is also very personable. Stakeholders feel comfortable in her presence. Her level of dedication is remarkable.

As Supervisor of Secondary Education and Academy Programs, I would not hesitate to choose Dr. Austin for any project in which I was involved. I highly recommend her for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



January 11, 2024

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am the Senior Advisor of Community Relations and Investments at Nutrien, located in Geismar, Louisiana. I am writing to express my full support for Dr. Amanda Austin's nomination as Principal of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Austin has exhibited exceptional leadership abilities, outstanding communication skills, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence throughout her tenure at MSA East. Her dedication to providing exceptional resources and incentives for students has been a significant factor in advancing the school. In my personal and professional relationship with Dr. Austin, I have seen her support extracurricular activities, attend school sporting events, and make personal and safe connections with students and parents in a more social setting. She is a responsible and valued community stakeholder who understands the importance of education and advocating for her students, faculty, and staff. Her efforts have paved the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

Under Dr. Austin's leadership, MSA East has continuously demonstrated outstanding academic performance, and her commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment has earned her the respect of students, parents such as myself, and faculty alike. As an educator, she has been instrumental in shaping the lives of countless students and has made a positive impact on the entire school community.

Dr. Amanda Austin's nomination for the Principal of the Year award for 2023-2024 is well-deserved recognition for her exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to academic excellence. She is a true inspiration to all those who strive for excellence in the field of education, and I have no doubt that she will continue to positively impact the lives of countless students and the entire school community.

Thank you for considering my endorsement of Dr. Amanda Austin.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sr. Advisor, Community Relations and Investment

Amanda E. Austin, Ed.D.

Objective: To utilize my work experiences to enhance academic achievement and educational opportunities for all students...

As a **Principal/ Director** at a STEAM magnet program (Pre-K through-12th Grade) where I am currently...

- Developing interests and opportunities in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) by offering a various of courses,
- Ensuring the necessary interventions, best practices, and Tier I curriculum/instruction is evident to move middle school students to meet academy requirements upon entering 9th grade through Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS),
- Offering additional Dual Enrollment opportunities (Math, Social Studies, and ELA) and move our Science courses to Advanced Placement (AP)

Education

2012-2015	Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (Lamar University)	Beaumont, TX
2011-2012	Educational Leadership Certification (McNeese State University)	Lake Charles, LA
2009-2010	Master of Arts in Teaching (Louisiana College)	Pineville, LA
	Alternative Teaching Certification	
2005-2009	Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology (Louisiana State University)	Baton Rouge, LA
	Minor in African and African American Studies	
2001-2005	High School Diploma (A.M. Barbe High School)	Lake Charles, LA

Education-Related Work Experience

Iberville Parish

July 2023- Present	MSA East Academy (Pre-K-12)	Director
July 2022- June 2023	North Iberville High School and Iberville STEM Academy (7-12)	Principal
July 2019- June 2022	Iberville STEM Academy (6-12)	Director
July 2016- June 2019	Plaquemine High School (7-12)	Assistant Principal

East Baton Rouge Parish

June 2013- June 2016	Mayfair Laboratory Magnet School (2nd, 3rd, 5th)	Teacher
Jan. - May 2013	LaSalle Elementary School (2nd)	Teacher

Ascension Parish

Aug. - Dec. 2012	Lowery Elementary School (4th)	Teacher
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Calcasieu Parish

Aug. 2009- July 2012	Barbe Elementary School (2nd, 3rd, 4th)	Teacher
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Other

Jan. 2023- Present	APEL Transformative Educational Leadership (TEL) Program	Coach
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Awards, Honors, and Other Work Experience

Principal/ Director

2023-2024	Louisiana Superintendent's Academy (LSA) ASCD Champion in Education Served on a committee to be a reviewer for ASCD 2024 Annual Conference Submissions and NSTA Conference Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)
2022-2023	Served on a committee to be a reviewer for NSTA Conference and National Council for the Social Studies Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD) National Beta Louisiana State Council <u>Retro Report Teacher Ambassador</u> AMLE Equity in Middle Level Grades Committee Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)
2021-2022	ASCD Curriculum Leadership Institute (2 Years) <u>What to Know About STEM Public High Schools</u> BrainPop- Bridging the Gap: The Parent Teacher Connection Cognia Accreditation Engagement Review Team- Mission Academy ASCD Focus Group- Flexible Learning Environments Teaching Hard History Cohort (Learning for Justice) Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)
2020- 2021	Served on a committee to be a reviewer for ASCD 2022 Annual Conference Submissions Board of Directors- United States Green Building Council- Louisiana LEAP 2025 Science Grade 7 Content and Bias Review Committee (LDOE/ WestEd) Class of 2021 ASCD Emerging Leader Selection Committee Louisiana Environmental Education Advisor (LDOE) <u>Social Studies Standards Steering Committee and Elementary Workgroup (LDOE)</u> Cognia/ AdvancED Engagement Review Team Member EDsay Project- Education during the Pandemic <u>United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Board of Directors</u> Libro.fm Audiobooks- Audio Listening Copies (ALC) Recipient

Amanda E. Austin, Ed.D.

Project Lead The Way Engineering- Deep Dive Panel Participant
BrainPop Summer VIBE 2020 Participant
Teacher 2 Teacher- Virtual Teacher and Principal Panels via Slack
Teacher 2 Teacher Focus Group- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation- Reflections on Teaching and Leading in Schools During the COVID Pandemic (Two pager) and Successful Learning Environments
Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)
IPSB Principal's Advisory Committee
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Educator Input Research Panel
2019- 2020 Teacher 2 Teacher Focus Group- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation- Covid19 and Understanding Experiences of Low Income Students
Served on a committee to be a reviewer for ASCD Empower 21 Submissions
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Educator Input Research Panel
Math Content and Bias Review Committee (LDOE/ Grades 7-8)
Advisory Council for Student Behavior and Discipline (ACSBD)
Data Quality and Review Subcommittee, Chairman (ACSBD)
IPSB Principal's Advisory Committee
Digital Ambassador- Core Advocates

Publications and Other Written Contributions

2023-2024 Publish quote in What New Leaders Need- ASCD Educational Leadership- Tell Us About section
Publish quote in The Challenge in Challenging Behavior- ASCD Educational Leadership- Tell Us About section
2022-2023 Corwin Press- The Schools We Need Now: A Guide to Designing a Mentally Healthy School and The Intentional Leader
LASER North Iberville High School- November 2022
Corwin Press- Making Room for Impact
Published quote in Confronting Poverty in Schools- ASCD Educational Leadership Magazine- Tell Us About section
2021-2022 Published quote in Education's New Era- ASCD Educational Leadership Magazine- Tell Us About section
2020-2021 LASER Iberville STEM Academy- April 2021
Feature in Washington Post: Words to Describe 2020
Published quote in The Empowered Principal- ASCD Educational Leadership Magazine- Tell Us About section
Corwin Press Book Reviewer
School Library Journal (SLJ) Book Reviewer
Editorial Board for ASCD EDAdvantage- Creating Meaningful and Sustainable Climate and Culture
Editorial Board for ASCD EDAdvantage- The Whole Teacher
Editorial Board for ASCD EDAdvantage- Facilitating Professional Learning
2019- 2020 Published quote in Principal Success Strategies- ASCD Education Express
Published quote in Rooted in Reading- ASCD Educational Leadership Magazine- Tell Us About section
LASER Iberville STEM Academy- February 2020
Student Achieve Partners Core Connections- February 2020
2015- 2016 Published The Moment I Knew I Was Called to Teach in Education Post, Second Line Education Blog, Ed Week (Letter to the Editor), Educator's Room, Ed News Daily, and EdPost
2007- 2008 Published article in the Lake Charles American Press on the Zero Tolerance Policy

Presentations

June 2023	<u>School Leadership 101</u>	Dr. Desiree Alexander
June 2023	<u>Building a High Performance Learning Culture</u>	Model Schools Conference
Nov. 2022	<u>Implicit Bias</u>	Learning for Justice
2016- Present	SPED, Poverty, Data Driven Decisions, Compass for Leaders, Actionable Feedback	Advance Innovative Education
Dec. 2021	Green Ribbon Schools (Joint presentation with LDOE Environmental Dept.)	Virtual
June 2016	<u>Student Engagement Strategies</u>	Teacher Leader Summit
Feb. 2016	<u>Middle School Environmental Science Program</u>	Mayfair Laboratory School
Jan. 2016	<u>Interactive Notebook and Online Educational Resources and Tools</u>	EBRPSS Winter Conference
	<u>Data! Data! Data!</u>	APEL Workshop
Nov. 2015	<u>Interactive Notebooking</u>	LATM/LSTA Joint Conference
2013-2014	Webb's Depth of Knowledge and Innovative Math Strategies	Mayfair Laboratory School

Professional Organizations

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
Louisiana Association of Principals (LAP)
Phi Sigma Pi, Honor Fraternity
Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA)
Association for Middle-Level Education (AMLE)- Equity in Middle Level Grades
ASCD- Emerging Leader- Class of 2018 and Education Champion- Fall 2023
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
ACT and ACT Louisiana State Organization Member
Louisiana Beta State Council

2023 App Round 2: Dr. Amanda E. Austin

****Teacher/Principal of the Year Semifinalist Application****

****Which are you- Teacher of the Year or Principal of the Year?***

Principal of the Year candidate

****By the end of day on Tuesday, March 26, please complete all tasks and submit.**

Written Response

Written Response One

Teacher and Principal of the Year Prompt: What are your three most unique (or "strongest") qualities as an educator/leader? How do these qualities impact your students, schools, communities and the education profession? How would you leverage these qualities to positively impact the role of State Teacher or Principal of the Year? (maximum of 750)

Add your written response in the textbox below. (750 words or less)

As a school leader for the past 8 years, I have learned that every situation I encounter requires me to utilize a different skill set or quality. Every student, teacher, or parent may need me for a different reason, and my ability to be flexible yet understanding has served me well. My most unique or "strongest" qualities are ability to build meaningful relationships, inspire others to see beyond any obstacle (mentorship), and my ability to adapt to any situation that I am faced with as a school leader.

My ability to build, create, and foster meaningful relationships with all stakeholders at my school, district, and community is my strongest quality. One of my top priorities has always been to observe my surroundings and make meaningful connections in order to learn and support all stakeholders. I have always demonstrated the gentle balance between leading from the front where I am visible, taking control, and guiding others toward a common goal and leading from behind where I guide and support others to be their best selves personally and professionally. Having experience with being new to a community as a school leader, I have held listening sessions with students, teachers, and parents where empathy and compassion have been my guiding principles. When others feel they are truly heard, meaningful change can take place.

Another strength is my ability to mentor others who aspire to be school leaders both in my school building and around the State of Louisiana. For the past 8 years both inside and outside of school hours, I have mentored aspiring teachers into leadership roles in their districts. I have experience working for both Advanced Innovative Education (now dissolved) and APEL's Transformative Educational Leadership (TEL) programs. I can remember my mentors investing their wisdom and experiences with me when I began my teaching career in Calcasieu Parish. They provided me with opportunities outside of the classroom to lead a STEM Night or facilitate our partner in education meetings. Now I provide my staff members with those same opportunities to lead various events/ activities on our campus. With support and guidance, I intentionally encourage others to step out of their comfort zones in order to grow. When my teachers attend professional development sessions or conventions, they come back to campus excited to present their new learning with the rest of the staff. These small acts ultimately build their confidence and passion for leading beyond the classroom.

Lastly, I have learned how to adapt my leadership style to meet the needs of those in need. Adaptability is an important quality I have learned through my years in education. Students have asked me before if I was the school counselor or social worker, because when a student is in a mental health crisis and needs to be heard, I am going to stop what I am going to listen to them. When a teacher wants to try something new but is hesitant and needs someone to give them feedback or ask me to show them a new strategy, I put my teacher hat on and modeled for them. Or when a parent does not know what to do with their child academically, behaviorally, or emotionally, I become a part of their village, and we brainstorm ways or resources to help their child. Being a school leader changes on a daily, sometimes hourly basis. Every day is different, but I have found purpose in educating the children of Louisiana.

I would leverage these qualities to positively impact the role of State Principal of the Year to create a pipeline for teacher leaders who aspire to move into leadership roles. Those roles can be that of Mentor Teacher, Master Teacher, Assistant Principal, or Instructional Leader. If selected for this honor, I would represent our State with integrity, pride, and with a joy for teaching and learning. I have been afforded the opportunity to share my journey as an alternative certification candidate with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology, to elementary school teacher then a middle school assistant principal, and ultimately to a school leader at both STEM and STEAM public schools, and I believe all pathways to the education profession should be celebrated!

Video Response

Please respond to the prompt below. The video should not exceed one minute and 30 seconds. After recording the video, put into a YouTube link and add the link in the textbox below.

Teacher and Principal of the Year Prompt: What education issue are you most passionate about? In your response, tell why this issue is important to you, as well as describe any work you've done to address this issue and how this work embodies you as an educator, as well as future work you hope to accomplish. Include evidence of the impact of this work to support your response.

Add your Youtube video link in the textbox.

<https://youtu.be/7QkRhPMRvdk>

Video Response Upload (optional)

POY_Amanda_Austin_Video Response Upload.jpg

Additional Uploads

If you would like to upload any additional items to your application you may do so below. This is optional. Examples could include newspaper articles, photos, videos, awards, etc.

Additional Upload 1 (optional)

POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter of Rec 1.pdf

Additional Upload 2 (optional)

POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter of Rec 2.pdf

Social Media and Bio

Professional Bio Add your professional bio in the textbox below. You may use the same bio you submitted in your initial application. Your professional bio should be written in third person. (250 words or less) Please follow the guidelines outlined

here

2023 App Round 1- You may search by name for the bio you submitted in Round 1.

Amanda Austin

Professional Bio textbox

Dr. Amanda Austin is currently serving Iberville Parish as the Director of the Iberville Math, Science, and Arts (MSA) Academy East in St. Gabriel. MSA Academy East is the magnet program of East Iberville High School. With 15 years of experience, her extensive knowledge of STEAM academic and extracurricular programming, in elementary, middle, and high school settings made this position a best fit. Dr. Austin's career in education did not start with her taking the traditional route. She earned a Bachelor's in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology with a minor in African and African American Studies from Louisiana State University, alternative teaching certification and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana College, as well as gained an endorsement for Educational Leadership from McNeese State University. She also pursued a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University. One of Dr. Austin's proudest professional achievements was being selected as the Principal to reopen North Iberville High School (NIHS) after the school had been shuttered for over a decade. With community support, input from district leadership, and full hiring autonomy, NIHS is a thriving traditional school with a STEM magnet program. With her recent participation in the Louisiana Superintendent's Academy and acceptance into ASCD's Champion in Education cohort, Dr. Austin continuously strives to grow as an instructional leader and expects to lead her school to meet or exceed each student's individual growth target. Through teamwork with all stakeholders, she believes that all students can and will succeed.

X/Twitter- Add your handle below (optional, but good to have)

@dr_amandaaustin

Photo Uploads

Please upload a headshot and a photo of you participating in your favorite past-time/hobby. Be sure and follow the photo guidelines outlined

here

Headshot

POY_Amanda_Austin_Iberville_Headshot.jpg

Hobby Photo

POY_Amanda_Austin_Hobby.jpg

Candidate Consent With your consent, your photos and/or videos could be used in media (such as on the Dept.'s or Dream Teacher's social media accounts), as well as shared with others (such as your fellow semifinalists), to celebrate you as a state-level honoree. Please check the appropriate box to indicate if you consent or not. You may view the consent form here- here.

Please check the appropriate box below.

I agree to the terms in the consent form.

Student Consent If students are included in your application, you must have a consent form on file. If you obtained a consent for a student in your initial application and still have on file, you do not need to get a new consent form. Please check the appropriate box to indicate if you have consent forms on file for all students included in your application. You may view the consent form here- here.

Please check the appropriate box below.

I have consent forms on file for all students included in my application.

Additional Information

Your current phone number (Preferably cell, with area code. Please list with hyphens, such as, 225-342-7695.)

[REDACTED]

Your email address.

[REDACTED]

School System Name

Iberville Parish School Board

School mailing address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your name as you'd like to see it in print on a certificate (include Dr., Ms., etc., if you like.)

Dr. Amanda E. Austin

Name Pronunciation – Please add a note for pronouncing your name (if needed) in the textbox below. Examples include- Francois ('franz-swah); Hebert (A-Bear); Soileau (swah-'low), etc.

n/a

Teachers- What grade(s) do you teach this year?

n/a

Teachers- What subject(s) do you teach this year?

n/a

Principals- What grade(s) do you serve as the school leader this year?

I serve students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

If you know you will serve in a different role next year, please add role in the textbox below.

n/a

If you'd like to include a note, please add here.

I am grateful for this opportunity and any additional ones moving forward. As an alternative certification teacher turned school leader, I represent the education profession with pride and honor. I represent all educators who are passionate about teaching, learning, and building meaningful and lasting relationships with their students even after they leave our classrooms.

2023 App Round 2: File Attachments

Video Response Upload (optional)

POY_Amanda_Austin_Video Response Upload.jpg

Additional Upload 1 (optional)

POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter of Rec 1.pdf

Additional Upload 2 (optional)

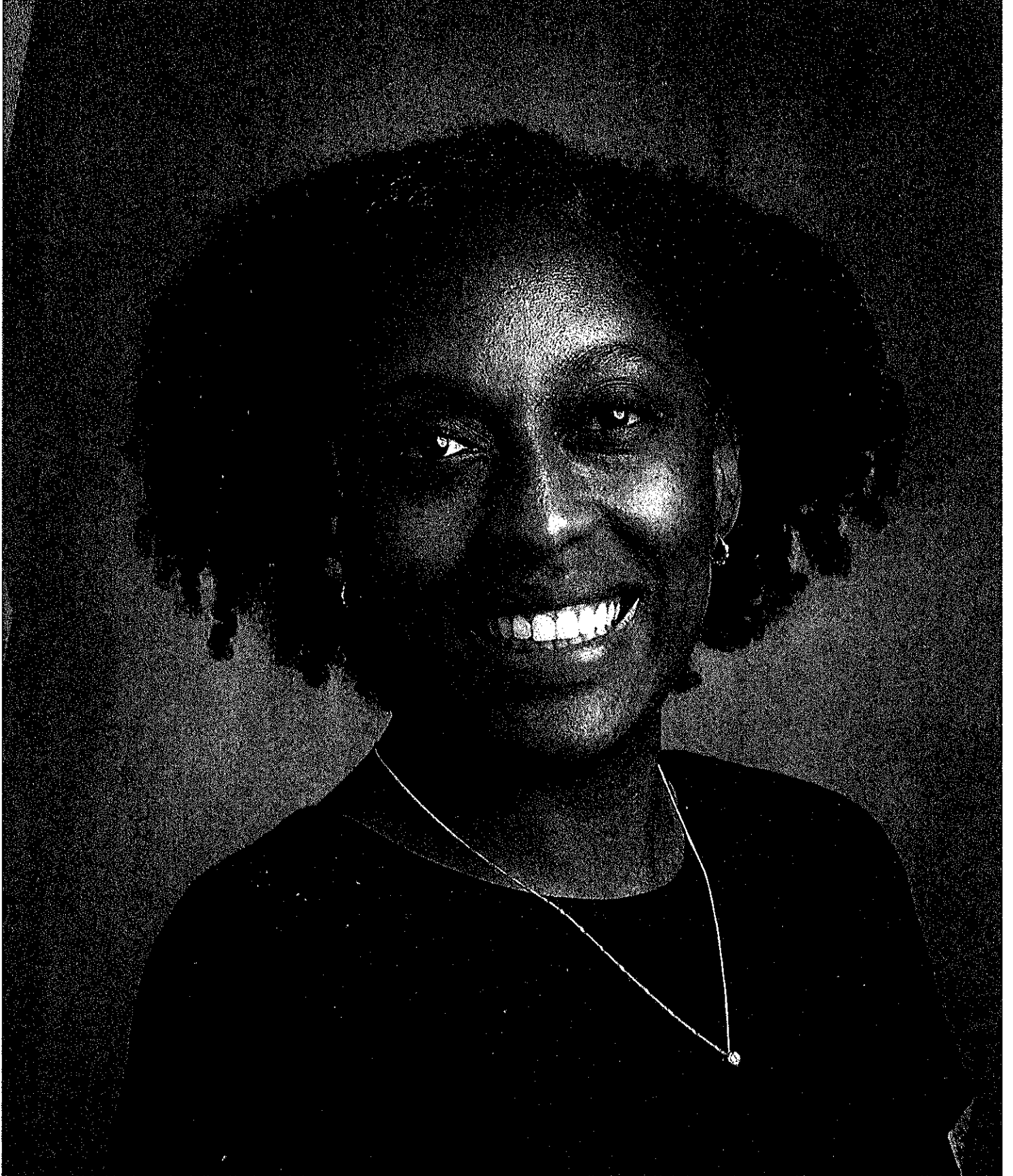
POY_Amanda_Austin_Letter of Rec 2.pdf

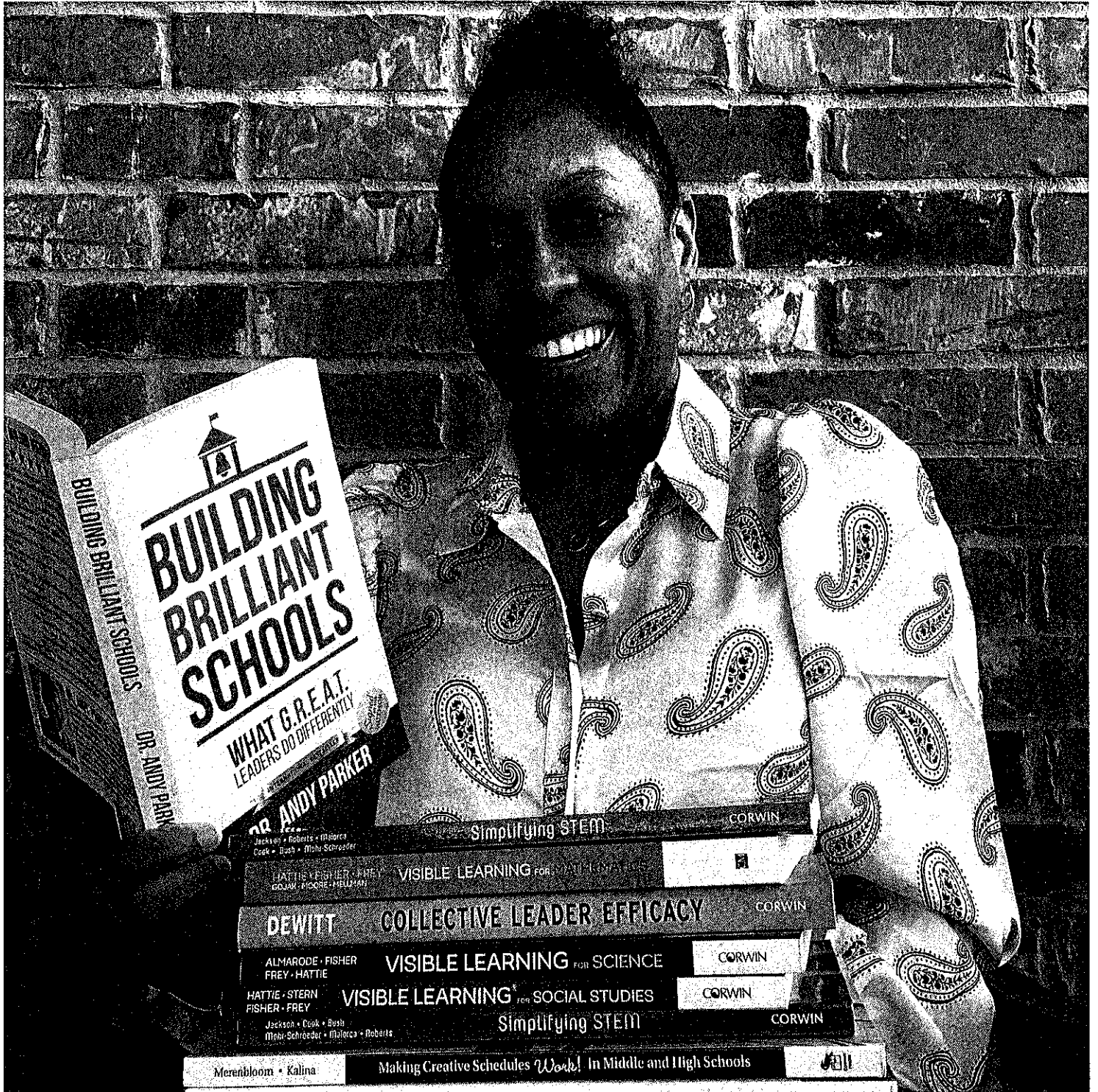
Headshot

POY_Amanda_Austin_Iberville_Headshot.jpg

Hobby Photo

Attachment: POY_Amanda_Austin_Iberville_Headshot.jpg





2023 App Round 3: 64849482

2025 Teacher/Principal of the Year Finalist Tasks

Which are you- **Teacher of the Year** or **Principal of the Year**?
Principal of the Year Finalist

School System Name
Iberville Parish School Board

Written Response Prompt

As the 2025 Louisiana Teacher or Principal of the Year, serving as the ambassador of education for Louisiana, you have been asked to give a speech to an audience of education stakeholders. What is your message? Please add your audience and speech below.

Audience- Add your audience here.

School Board Members, Superintendents, District Staff, Administrators, Teachers, Students, Parents, and Community Members/ Partners in Education

Add your written response here.

I am who I am today because of every teacher, parent, student, and community partner in education that embraced me, challenged me, and helped me grow as a school leader. Every stakeholder that I have crossed paths with holds a crucial piece of the puzzle that make up our great State and the state of our educational system. We must stop working in silos and work together to ensure the children of Louisiana have every tool they need to be successful to not only compete locally, but globally. By working together, we can ensure our students are prepared for a rapidly changing world.

I did not take the traditional route to become a principal. I started off as an uncertified teacher who held a degree in Criminology with full intentions of going to law school. The spring semester of college my senior year, I took a service-learning course that partnered with a nearby elementary school. It was through my experiences at that school and with a certain 5th grade math teacher that I found my purpose and passion for education. I obtained my alternative certification during my first year of teaching at a small elementary school with about 250 students and one school bus. Majority of the students walked to a local housing development. It was there that I learned curriculum, lesson planning, classroom management and more. I cannot remember what I taught or how much my students learned, but one thing I do know is that they changed my life. It was within my first three years of teaching that I knew in order to create meaningful and long-lasting change that I wanted to one day be a school leader. I wanted to create opportunities that would enhance the lives of my students.

In the fall of 2022, I was given an opportunity of a lifetime. I was tasked with reopening a rural high school that was shut down a decade prior due to low enrollment, lack of staff, and failing test scores. This school was set to have a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focus. Initially, I believed this to be a daunting task, and we faced some challenges, but with a team of like-minded individuals that made up my leadership team and teaching staff, we did not let any barriers that could have prevented success stop us from reopening and reviving this community school. In partnership with the district and our community, we reopened North Iberville High School with academic success as our priority along with athletics. We vowed to bring STEM to life daily through meaningful hands-on demonstrations, a variety of rigorous course offerings, and field trips experiences. From meteorologists, to chemists, to leaders in STEM education, we engaged our students to think beyond their present circumstances and to the future. We challenged our students to come up with solutions to problems in the world. With less than 25% of our STEM workforce being represented by black and brown faces, it became our goal to expose all students regardless of their demographics, income, race, or locality to college majors and careers centered around STEM. We were able to develop well rounded and rigorous programming in Computer Science, Engineering, Agriculture, and Health Sciences.

It was then I began to see the connections from STEM education to the needs of our career and technical education (CTE) programs in the State. We as education stakeholders must begin exposing our students to opportunities that will bridge the gap between secondary education and the workforce. We must create opportunities for our high school and college graduates to want to stay home in Louisiana to work and thrive instead of leaving the State taking with them valuable skills and industry-based certifications. I live by the mantra that kids cannot be, what they cannot see, so the creation of internships, job shadowing opportunities, and career awareness programs are essential in creating a pipeline to career and technical education pathways. Partnerships with industry and local businesses are all ways to create better outcomes for our students beyond high school.

A path to a brighter future for our State and our children is through teamwork with all education stakeholders. I believe that all students can and will succeed. One thing I would never trade about being a school leader is the moment kids and parents realize that you're on their team and have their backs! When relationships are authentic, we can begin to move educational boulders and break barriers that prevent student success.

Additional Uploads

Written Response Upload- You may submit additional artifacts that support your response. (Optional)

POY_AmandaAustin_Artifact.pdf

Video Response Prompt

Describe how you have been innovative as an educator. What inspired this innovation and what has been the impact of this work? (maximum 2 minute video)

Add YouTube video link here.

Additional Uploads

Video Response Upload- You may also submit additional artifacts that support your response. (optional)

Professional Bio Add your professional bio in the textbox below. You may use the same bio you submitted in your initial application. Your

professional bio should be written in third person. (250 words or less) Please follow the guidelines outlined

here

Round 2 Bio

Dr. Amanda E. Austin

Add Bio Here

Dr. Amanda Austin is currently serving Iberville Parish as the Director of the Iberville Math, Science, and Arts (MSA) Academy East in St. Gabriel. MSA Academy East is the magnet program of East Iberville High School. With 15 years of experience, her extensive knowledge of STEAM academic and extracurricular programming, in elementary, middle, and high school settings made this position a best fit. Dr. Austin's career in education did not start with her taking the traditional route. She earned a Bachelor's in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology with a minor in African and African American Studies from Louisiana State University, alternative teaching certification and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana College, as well as gained an endorsement for Educational Leadership from McNeese State University. She also pursued a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University. One of Dr. Austin's proudest professional achievements was being selected as the Principal to reopen North Iberville High School (NIHS) after the school had been shuttered for over a decade. With community support, input from district leadership, and full hiring autonomy, NIHS is a thriving traditional school with a STEM magnet program. With her recent participation in the Louisiana Superintendent's Academy and acceptance into ASCD's Champion in Education cohort, Dr. Austin continuously strives to grow as an instructional leader and expects to lead her school to meet or exceed each student's individual growth target. Through teamwork with all stakeholders, she believes that all students can and will succeed.

Optional Upload- If you would like to include any additional item(s) to accompany your application, such as a video, newspaper article, etc., please upload below.

Optional Upload 1

POY_AmandaAustin_SchoolBoardPresidentLetterofRec.pdf

Optional Upload 2

POY_AmandaAustin_StudentLetterofRecs.pdf

Candidate Consent Please review the terms in the candidate consent form and check the appropriate box below. You may view the consent form here- [here](#).

Checkbox

I consent to the terms in the form.

Student Consent If students/minors are included in your entry/photo(s), be sure you have a student consent form on file. You may view the consent form here- [here](#).

Checkbox

I have student(s)/minor(s) in my entry and/or photo(s) and I have a student consent forms on file for each individual.

If you would like to include a note/message, please enter here.

Thank you for this opportunity to represent our State and education as a whole! This process has been stress free with multiple measures of support along the way!

2023 App Round 1

Amanda Austin

2023 App Round 3: File Attachments

Written Response Upload- You may submit additional artifacts that support your response. (Optional)

POY_AmandaAustin_Artifact.pdf

Optional Upload 1

POY_AmandaAustin_SchoolBoardPresidentLetterofRec.pdf

Optional Upload 2

POY_AmandaAustin_StudentLetterofRecs.pdf