

Criteria for Oklahoma Award of Excellence

The following shall serve as the criteria for the presentation of this award. Councils must do items 1-7 and two of the remaining optional items, in addition to meeting the two major prerequisites on the nomination form.

1. At least five of the local council's members must be members of the International Reading Association LAT association—refer to Advocacy manual for form. Very simple to belong to this.
2. Develop an action plan to reach specific advocacy goals, for example, what are your steps for spreading advocacy information to your council members?
3. Show evidence of participating in ORA calls to action, such as a copy of a letter to a legislator.
4. Send e-mail or newsletter updates on advocacy issues and alerts to council members, such as the ones that we send you.
5. Keep a person within your council who will be kept informed regarding contact with the State Advocacy Chairs.
6. Develop and distribute resource materials on advocacy to share with members and the state chair.
7. Include politicians from the council's district on the mailing list.

(Optional)

8. Conduct periodic meetings with a Legislator and maintain a record of comments made by a Legislator regarding their position on concerns to ORA/educational issues, especially reading.
9. Might develop a council web page section on legislative issues.
10. Hold advocacy skill-building workshops for members.
11. Write letters to editors regarding educational and legislative concerns.
12. Arrange for letter writing booths or campaigns or phone call campaigns,
13. Give testimony to legislative committee or board of education.
14. Invite legislators to speak at meetings or arrange a "Meet your Legislator" meeting.
15. Honorary membership may be given to a politician.
16. Utilize media resources.