

# 2025-2026 **Distinguished Program Recognition**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Navigate this section to see frequently asked questions about Program Recognition.*

### **What are the benefits of earning the PLTW Distinguished District or School Program Recognition?**

Earning the PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition provides your district or school an opportunity to celebrate your commitment to PLTW, share your PLTW success with your community, and showcase how you inspire and engage your students. To help you share your success, you will receive:

- Acknowledgement on the PLTW website as part of the PLTW Distinguished Program listing
- Special PLTW Distinguished District or School designation brand logo to use on the school website and in print materials
- Sample press release for local promotion and media opportunities
- Sample social media posts for digital channel promotion
- Consideration for inclusion in PLTW communications
- Additional benefits may be added and communicated when we issue the recognition

### **How can my school or district become a PLTW Distinguished District or School?**

To be eligible for the PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition, a PLTW Program Coordinator at the district or PLTW Site Coordinator at the school must submit all required information on the [eligibility form in myPLTW](#) by the deadline. You must complete a separate eligibility form for each district or school with data and information from the applicable school year. All information should be accurately and honestly provided. PLTW will review all submitted data and information against PLTW data, including but not limited to, PLTW rostering data, NCES data, active PLTW programs, etc.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition and eligibility criteria.

*Please note: If you believe your district is eligible because all schools in your district qualify for PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition, you will still need to submit an eligibility form in myPLTW to be considered for the PLTW Distinguished District award.*

### **Who should I contact for assistance with program recognition form submission?**

Please contact the PLTW Solution Center at 877.335.7589 or [solutioncenter@pltw.org](mailto:solutioncenter@pltw.org) with any questions.

### **How often can districts and schools receive recognition for their programs?**

The PLTW Distinguished District and School Program Recognitions are one-year designations. Districts and schools can submit eligibility forms every year for consideration.

### **Is there a fee associated with earning PLTW recognition?**

No! There are no fees associated with submitting the form or earning the PLTW Distinguished District and School Program Recognition.

## **What are the PLTW programs that qualify for recognition?**

There are two categories for PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition: PLTW Distinguished District and PLTW Distinguished School.

For the purpose of this recognition, we define “district” as all K-12 schools in a school system comprised of two or more individual schools.

Schools may earn the school-level designation for programs based on grade bands: PLTW Launch (K-5), PLTW Gateway (6-8), and PLTW High School (9-12). It is possible for stand-alone, private, or charter schools not associated with a district according to NCES data to qualify for some or all school-level recognition.

*Please Note: We designate a district or school as public or private based on the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) classification.*

## **Can we still apply if we are a technical or career center or students from other schools take PLTW courses with us, so we aren't technically a school or district?**

We realize there are unique circumstances involving the structure of some participating PLTW schools/districts. Eligibility criteria and data are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition Team and such unique circumstances are considered. If we have any questions or concerns regarding eligibility of a specific school/district, we will contact an administrator at the school/district to clarify prior to determining recognition status.

## **Can we still qualify if our district or school doesn't enroll students in each grade included in the program criteria?**

If your school/or district only enrolls part of the specific program grades, you can still qualify for Distinguished Program Recognition if you meet the criteria for the grades you do offer. In most cases, the numbers in your eligibility form will be prepopulated so you will see a “0” for total school enrollment in grades you do not offer. Eligibility will be determined only based on enrollment in the grades you do offer.

If your eligibility form information is not prepopulated, you can input a “0” for the grades you do not offer and the correct enrollment numbers for grade you do offer. A text box will appear where you can explain which grades your school offers.

## **Why does the PLTW Distinguished School Program Recognition criteria begin with Kindergarten when PLTW Launch offers PreK modules?**

We've found that many PLTW districts or schools do not offer PreK and their enrollment begins at Kindergarten. We don't want to discourage districts and schools from applying by including PreK in the criteria. In addition, PreK modules have only been part of the PLTW Launch program since the 2019-20 school year. We believe it's unrealistic to expect all PLTW Launch districts and schools to implement the curriculum so soon after its release, and that it's unfair to penalize districts or schools that have not yet been able to implement PreK modules.

## **Why can only PLTW Program Coordinators and Site Coordinators submit the eligibility form?**

We've limited the ability to submit the eligibility form for two main reasons. The first reason is to avoid duplicate submissions. The second is that we've found, in many cases, the PLTW Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator have access to the data required to complete the form. Since we only accept complete submissions, and you are unable to start the form and return, it's important to have access to the necessary information.

## **Someone else in my district/school submitted the eligibility form and they shouldn't have. Can I change the record to show myself as the submitter?**

You can contact the PLTW Solution Center at 877.335.7589 or [solutioncenter@pltw.org](mailto:solutioncenter@pltw.org) for assistance.

## **My district/school has the correct program(s), why can't I access the form?**

You may not be able to access the form for a few reasons. First, only PLTW Program Coordinators can submit forms for their district and schools, and only PLTW Site Coordinators can submit for their school. If you have a different role, you will not have the ability to submit the form. Additionally, there may already be a form completed for your district/school. To avoid duplicate submissions, only one person can submit the form per program per school.

## **There are numbers already in my eligibility form. Where did they come from?**

To make it easier for schools and districts to complete the eligibility form, we prepopulated school enrollment and PLTW participation information in the form. School enrollment numbers are based on the most recent year of data available from the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) Common Core of Data. Information on modules, units, or courses offered and PLTW student participation is based on rostering information in myPLTW for the eligibility criteria school year and prior years, if applicable. Please confirm the prepopulated information and then submit the eligibility form.

## **The prepopulated numbers in the eligibility form are incorrect. How can I update those numbers?**

You cannot edit the prepopulated numbers directly in the eligibility form. If your numbers differ substantially from the prepopulated numbers, there is a text box below the prepopulated fields where you can indicate which fields are incorrect and provide the correct numbers along with a brief description of the difference. Our PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition Team will review the information included in your form when determining eligibility.

## **Can I complete the eligibility form offline?**

To be considered for PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition, your district Program Coordinator or school Site Coordinator must complete and submit the eligibility form online through myPLTW. Because you cannot save information in the online form and return later, you may download a pdf version of the eligibility form, which you can use to gather the information needed before completing the online form. To access the pdf version, select the "Download Blank Form" button on the top left corner of the eligibility form.

## **How will I know when my eligibility form is successfully submitted?**

When your eligibility form is submitted, your district Program Coordinator or school Site Coordinator will receive a notification in myPLTW, as well as an email confirming submission. The eligibility form status in myPLTW will also change to “submitted” and will display the submission date.

## **Why is PLTW asking about ensuring all students have the opportunity to participate in PLTW programs? What information do I need to provide?**

We recognize schools for their efforts to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in PLTW programs. The PLTW Distinguished Program Recognition Team will use a rubric to assess whether responses meet eligibility requirements for the Distinguished Program designation. The rubric evaluates whether schools describe specific strategies for ensuring access for all students in at least one of the following areas: ensuring all students are aware of PLTW opportunities; providing access to PLTW for all students; using data to monitor gaps in PLTW access and/or success; ensuring students feel represented in the PLTW curriculum; and other strategies that promote access to or success in PLTW for all students.

For example, strategies to support participation in PLTW for all students could include: targeted outreach by counselors; adding flexibility to admissions requirements to allow all students to access PLTW; using data on PLTW enrollment to identify gaps and implementing strategies to address those gaps; inviting STEM professionals from various backgrounds to speak with PLTW classes; or providing students with additional academic supports to ensure they succeed in PLTW classes.