Introduction

Since the inaugural Awards in the 2009/2010 financial year, the Department of Basic Education has recognised the best practices in schools that are implementing the National School Nutrition Programme in line with minimum requirement. The NSNP Awards has grown in leaps and bounds with milestones involving other government department and partners. This entails the promotion of Social Cohesion in schools and school communities.

The Department wishes to congratulate all schools and districts that participated and were awarded with prestigious prizes in implementing the NSNP according to the minimum guidelines within limited resources. The success of the NSNP is made possible in all our schools because of the dedication of Volunteer Food Handlers who prepare meals each day for learners. In 2018/19 financial year, the Department celebrated the Awards in tandem with Africa Day of School Feeding on 01 March 2019 as adopted during the African Union Summit in 2016. This has been welcomed across the continent as it continues to prioritise through policy and legislation, to improve retention, attendance and the performance of children in schools as well as generating economic growth.

In 2013/14 financial year the Department entered into a partnership with Tiger Brands Foundation and introduced another category in recognising the Best District in their monitoring and support of schools. The Department also wishes to thank all stakeholders in supporting the NSNP towards the improvement of learners’ well-being.

Once more the Department invites “ALL” schools, Districts and members of the public to nominate schools and districts in their area for the 2019/20 NSNP Best Schools Awards.

“Siyadla, Siyafunda Sinamadla”
Awards Profile

The NSNP Best Schools and District Awards comprise of two (2) categories:

**Category 1: Best School**

Award description: The award recognises excellence in the daily provision of nutritious meals to learners.

Scope: This award targets Public Primary, Secondary and Special Public schools that participate in the NSNP.

Criteria for selection: The successful schools must meet the following criteria:

i) Meet or exceed the NSNP general implementation guidelines or standards in providing nutritious meals for learners;

ii) Evidence of innovation and creativity in the programme implementation;

iii) Promote internal and external stakeholders’ participation including non-government organisation for the success implementation of the NSNP;

iv) NSNP beneficiaries/learners engagement (Learner Representative Council involvement in Secondary Schools, learners feedback system;

v) Promote school food gardens and;

vi) Nutrition Education in school communities to improve the eating habits and lifestyles of learners and parents (Nutrition and Obesity Week Celebration, World Food Day);

vii) Adherence to food safety principles - Certificate of Acceptability (CoA) issued by Municipalities (Hygienic/clean preparation and storage facilities, Food Handlers who uphold personal hygiene and are committed to serving learners);

viii) The school has an NSNP Committee that keeps file according to the standards NSNP index and coordinates activities of the programme and Application of “Batho Pele” principles to ensure success implementation of the NSNP (provide evidence);

ix) Functional School Based Support Teams to improve learning and teaching activities.

**NB: What makes your school different from other schools in the area**

**Category 2: Best District**

Award description: The award recognises excellence in how the District monitor and support schools in implementing the Programme.

Scope: This award targets all Education Districts.

Criteria for selection: The successful districts must meet the following criteria:

i) Demonstrate a positive attitude and a clear understanding of the NSNP and initiate projects towards improving programme implementation;

ii) Display of leadership qualities to ensure the integration of the NSNP with other District Education programmes;

iii) Efficient and effective schools’ monitoring and support systems to ensure daily provision nutritious of meals to leaners (i.e. non-feeding risk management plan, consequences management, etc);

iv) Monitoring system for food qualities delivered to schools – sampling and testing of food items;

v) Real-time reporting systems from school to district to provincial level;
vi) Provide quality and timely reports at all levels (circuit, district and province);

vii) Capacity building workshops plan in place and conducted for the NSNP stakeholders (SBGs, NSNP Committees, VFHs, School Governance, etc.);

viii) Collaborate with Government Departments and Non-Governmental Institutions to promote Nutrition Education, Food Safety (including Food Safety teams in place), Food Garden Initiatives, Nutrition Week Celebration, School Milk Day, Deworming and Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) process, Health & Hygiene; and

ix) Establish and manage NSNP data management system - databases on schools’ cooking facilities, equipment and utensil, kitchens with Certificate of Acceptability (CoA), Service providers.

Entries

i) The entry/ nomination forms can be collected at your nearest Education Department offices (district/circuit/area office);

ii) Completed entry/nomination forms must be delivered to your nearest district/ circuit/ area office of the Department of Education.

iii) Closing date of all provincial entries (schools and districts) at National Office, Pretoria is 31 October 2019.

iv) Provincial entries (schools and districts) submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

v) Entry/Nomination forms can be collected and delivered to your nearest circuit/area/district or regional office of the Department of Education.

vi) Previous winners and finalists (schools and districts) are not eligible to enter the competition for a period of three years.

Adjudication

i) The final adjudication at national office shall be conducted by the committee appointed by the Department of Basic Education.

ii) The committee may conduct site visit to verify the submitted information.

iii) The adjudicating of the nominations/entries shall be completed within 15 days after the closing date.

ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL:

Tel. 012 357 3414 012 357 4046 012 357 3420

NB: Owing to the expected high volume of nominations, only schools meeting ALL the requirements will be considered. Schools/provinces that submit applications after the closing date will not be considered.
Applicable Awards:

Best Schools and Districts will be awarded as follows:

The Tiger Brands Foundation (TBF) will donate a prize for the winning school (position 1) to the value of **R500 000** towards the building of a kitchen plus introduction of in-school breakfast programme, trophies and certificates to ALL participating schools and Districts.

The Foundation will also sponsor the winning District with office equipment to the value of **R85 000** and the Department will award position two and three with Laptop, printers and digital cameras.

All finalists will receive cooking equipment/utensils procured by the Department of Basic Education.

Awards Ceremony

The Department Basic Education shall host the Awards Ceremony at the winning province to award prizes for all 2019/2020 winners. Position one (1) two (2) and three (3) will be invited to attend the event. Provinces are encouraged to awards the winning school and District before submitting the finalists to Department of Basic Education.