



Yes I Can! Awards Program



The Hart County Schools' Yes I Can! Awards Program seeks to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of children and youth with exceptional needs. Nominees must be 3-21 in age at the time of the nomination and enrolled in the district. Applications must be complete and contain required information in order to be considered.

One winner in each category will be selected. Categories include: Academics, Arts, Transition, Technology, School and Community Activities, and Self-Advocacy. Nominations may be made by parents, teachers, friends, paraprofessionals, etc. Award recipients will be recognized and receive a commemorative award at a special awards ceremony at Hart County High School on March 23, 2027. They will also be nominated to Kentucky CEC for consideration of the state Yes I Can! Awards.

Application Components

- Signed Parental Consent/Release
- Statement of Achievement: In 500 words or less, describe why the nominee deserves to receive this award. Include information such as challenges the student encountered prior to his or her accomplishments, his or her exceptionality/exceptionalities, the type of special education services provided to the nominee, the student's achievements in his or her category of nomination, the setting in which these accomplishments occurred, and the impact these accomplishments have had on the student and/or others.
- Supporting Evidence: Two additional forms of documentation may be included. No more than two will be considered. Examples of documentation may include an essay written by the nominee, transcript, copies of artwork, awards, record of activities, record of technology use, employment history, etc.

All components of the application must be uploaded at the time of submission.

Applications are due February 5, 2027.

[Link to Nomination Application](#)

Award Categories and Descriptions

Academics: recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated achievement that far exceeds expectations (a) in a particular subject area such as math, science, reading, etc; (b) in overall academic achievement; (c) on standardized tests, etc. This could be demonstrated through competitions, special projects, and/or performances.

Arts: recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated achievement that far exceed expectation and/or has led to a positive impact on the student's social/emotional development or well-being in a particular category such as music, theater, dance, visual arts, graphic arts, sculpture, dance, written expression, sculpture, etc.

Transition: recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated achievement that far exceeds expectation in acquiring knowledge, skills and/or abilities that resulted in successful outcomes in their work, vocational training, or independent living.

Technology: recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated achievement that far exceeds expectation in or through the effective use of technology, including assistive technology, to advance their academic and non-academic skills and/or the positive impact on student social/emotional development or well-being.

School and Community Activities: recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated achievement or leadership that far exceeds expectations in organized activities at the school or community level through (a) school-based clubs/activities (yearbook, debate, peer mentoring, etc), (b) community-based clubs/activities (volunteer work, Boy/Girl Scouts, church, etc).

Self-Advocacy: recognizes students and youth with exceptionalities who have demonstrated achievement that far exceeds expectations in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one's goals, or advocating for one's needs, such as effectively obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others.