



# Michigan Council for Exceptional Children

## *Yes I Can! Guidelines*

The *Yes I Can!* Awards honor students with disabilities who excel. These awards celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; encourage these individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities. Students are recognized for their achievements in the following categories:

Academics	Arts
Athletics	Community Service
Employment	Extracurricular Activities
Self-Advocacy	Technology
Independent Living Skills	

### **Award Benefits**

Each individual nominated for the *Yes I Can!* Awards will receive a Certificate of Achievement. Certificates are sent to the nominator. Braille certificates are available to those who check the box on the bottom of the Nomination Form.

### **Nominee Eligibility Requirements**

- Candidates must be 2-21 years of age when they are nominated.
- Each nominee is eligible in only **one** category and may be nominated in only **one** category.
- Each candidate must be nominated by one individual (*e.g.*, teacher, principal, related service provider, friend, parent).
- The nominee must have an identified disability.

### **Award Selection Considerations**

- The Selection Committee looks at not only the student's achievements but also the severity of the student's disability in relation to his or her achievements.

### **Rules and Instructions for Nomination**

- Complete the Nomination Form, providing specific information about the nominee. The more complete and detailed the information, the better. *Make sure you provide information about the nominee that addresses their achievements*

*in the category in which he/she is nominated.*

The form may be downloaded from our Website <[www.MichiganCEC.org](http://www.MichiganCEC.org)>

- All information requested must be typed using font size 12. The Selection Committee will not review handwritten forms.
- Double check that the nominee's name is spelled correctly, since it will be printed on his or her Certificate of Achievement.

### **What to Submit and How to Submit the Nomination Packet**

- Include the completed Nomination Form, Sections A-F. Please note:
  - **Two letters of recommendation** must be included. Details are in Section E of the Form.
  - Supplementary materials that support the nomination (photos, news clippings, etc.) Details are in Section F of the Form.
- Include one 5 X 7 color photo of the nominee. Write the student's name on the back.

### **How to Submit the Nomination Packet**

- Note that all materials submitted become the property of CEC **and will not be returned.**
- All nominations must be submitted in hard copy.
- All nomination materials (including supporting documentation) must be submitted and mailed in the same packet.
- Each Packet should be organized as follows:
  - A. Nominee Category Sheet
  - B. Nominee Information
  - C. Nominator Information
  - D. Background Information
  - E. Supporting Documentation
  - F. Additional Documentation
- Nomination packets **must be postmarked by December 18, 2009.**
- Mail the entire nomination packet to:

Mary Del Mariani - *Yes I Can!* Awards  
Berrien County Intermediate School District  
711 St. Joseph Avenue  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103-1602  
Phone: 269.471.7725 ext. 138  
Fax: 269.471.0314

