



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>

- 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 21, 2007.**
- 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

