



# 2015-2016 Beacon Essay Contest

## WHO CAN BE NOMINATED

The Foundation will once again honor one student from each campus and any educator or staff member who has had a positive influence on the life of a student.

We are requesting teachers in the grades listed below to have their students write an essay or story telling about ANY Pine Tree educator or staff member who has played a particularly meaningful role in their lives (does not have to be a teacher they have currently).

Kindergarten • 2<sup>nd</sup> grade • 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
 6<sup>th</sup> grade • 8<sup>th</sup> grade • 12<sup>th</sup> grade • ExCEL/PACE

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

**\*Please put teacher or staff member's name at the top of the essay. \***

**HOW will the stories be scored and collected?** Essays will be scored on the following criteria:

- 🎧 Please send your essays to PTEF via school mail by March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 🎧 If any submissions are written in a language other than English, please attach the translation with the essay.
- 🎧 The author effectively describes his or her story about a staff person who made a difference.
- 🎧 The story is legible and readable.
- 🎧 The staff member's name is included in the story/essay.

**HOW will the selection be made?** After receiving the essays from the campuses, a Foundation committee will be assigned to read the tributes and select a winning essay from each campus. **One student and one educator or staff member from each of the district's seven campuses will be honored as a Beacon Award Winner.** One of the seven nominees will be selected to receive the prestigious Regen Stiles Teaching Excellence Award.

**WHEN and how will the nominees be honored?**

- 🎧 Excerpts from all the essays may be used on Pine Tree ISD website publications.
- 🎧 Students will receive a personalized trophy
- 🎧 Staff members will receive a cash award & personalized plaque from the Foundation.
- 🎧 Winning students and staff members will be honored at our Beacon Awards banquet at the Summit Club on May 5, 2016.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- 🎧 Essay Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2016
- 🎧 Banquet on May 5, 2016 at Summit Club

The purpose of this contest is to provide students with a way to share their pride through their personal stories.

Thank you in advance for your participation and help with this project. We appreciate your time and support.

## Suggested Writing Prompts

- 🎧 What are your memories of school? Which person, who works for Pine Tree, helped you the most? Tell us about him or her. What was it about this person that made a difference for you?
- 🎧 Do you remember what a difference your favorite teacher made? This Teacher is the Best because...
- 🎧 I would like to give an award to this special person at Pine Tree because...