Student PSEA

STUDENT-PENNSYLVANIA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

APEX

Achieving Professional Excellence

Program Guide

A.P.E.X

APEX Program

The **APEX** (**A**chieving **P**rofessional **Ex**cellence) program is designed to encourage chapters to participate in a variety of projects, which fall under five main categories.

APEX is **documentation of goals achieved and activities conducted by Student PSEA chapters**. Recognition and awards are presented at the annual state conference. The APEX committee strongly recommends that chapters wishing to participate select an individual to coordinate all documentation as identified within the rubric throughout the year.

APEX provides the opportunity for chapters to demonstrate their level of commitment to Student PSEA and its mission statement:

Mission Statement

*Student PSEA is a pre-professional **student association** dedicated to advancing leadership skills and **professional development** among future educators across the Commonwealth. Our focus is to enhance communications and relations with our membership, the PSEA, and the community as a whole.*

APEX provides many leadership opportunities for members on campus, off campus and within their PSEA region.

Although APEX is not intended as a competition, chapters which complete required projects are encouraged to submit documentation of their project for awards to be given at the annual Student PSEA Conference. Documentation can be in the form of electronic portfolios, videos, computer slide shows, as well as other creative ideas.

Please read the following pages carefully and be sure to comply with all APEX requirements if you wish to be eligible for awards.

If you have any questions, please e-mail students@psea.org

All participating chapters that submit an APEX, will be recognized at the annual state conference and the top three APEX entries will receive an award.

The categories are as follows:

Student PSEA Titles	Equivalent to NEA Local Excellence Award
Community Service	Community Outreach
Leadership & Membership Development	Organization & Infrastructure
Political Action & Advocacy	Political Action
Professional Development	Teacher Quality
General Organization & Quality	

APEX chapters may also wish to submit their entry to NEA for consideration in the NEA Student Program Local Excellence Award. Information on that award can be found at https://www.nea.org/about-nea/our-members/aspiring-educators. Please note that all nominations, applications, and supporting documents must be postmarked or received in the NEA Student Program office.

Cash awards will be presented to the winning chapters in each of the following categories:

❖ Highest Percentage Increase in Membership

❖ Overall Entry

❖ Community Service

❖ Leadership & Membership Development

❖ Political Action & Advocacy

❖ Professional Development

❖ Electronic submission

Entries can be in the form of digital portfolios, videos, computer slide shows, as well as other creative ideas.

All entries must be electronically submitted to: students@psea.org. Please include the university name in the subject line (ie Clarion University Apex Submission).

*All submissions will be evaluated after the first breakout session.

APEX Program Reports
All entries, **must have the following required** enclosed APEX Chapter Information and Activities Information sheets for chapters to provide general information **w i t h   a d v i s o r   s i g n a t u r e** (Scan and attach). Submit the completed APEX Chapter Information and Activities Information sheets with your entry. **Incomplete submissions will not be considered.**

About the Categories

❖ Each activity must document **a minimum of five members** involved in the planning and implementation to qualify as an activity.
❖ Activities that qualify for two or more categories must be identified as such.
❖ When having an event with an EDGE speaker, **clearly identify the speaker as an EDGE speaker**.

1. **Community Service**
   ❖ Must be of a service nature
   ❖ May be done as a joint campus organization project or can involve outside community organizations
   ❖ Examples of previous APEX entries:
      On Campus:
      ♦ Prepare care packages for student teachers
      ♦ Establish a campus tutoring service
      ♦ Organize a blood drive
      Off Campus:
      ♦ Adopt-a-Highway
      ♦ Food Drive
      ♦ Nursing Home Visits

2. **Leadership & Membership Development**
   ❖ Should be designed to increase membership growth (retention, recruitment, diversity, and class)
   ❖ May include leadership opportunities for members
   ❖ Increase communication among chapter members and/or the community
   ❖ Examples of previous APEX entries:
      ♦ Membership drive
      ♦ Publish chapter newsletters
      ♦ Monthly chapter meetings

3. **Political Action & Advocacy**
   ❖ Should increase political awareness and involvement of your members
      Examples of previous APEX entries:
      ♦ Voter registration drive
      ♦ Sponsor a political debate and/or a guest speaker on controversial educational issues
      ♦ Campaign phone banks
      ♦ Distributing political/campaign materials
      ♦ PACE Fundraiser (must follow PSEA/PACE Guidelines)

4. **Professional Growth**
   ❖ Must be a professional education focus
   ❖ Must be geared to expanding the professional knowledge and/or experience of your members
   ❖ Examples of previous APEX entries:
      ♦ Partnering with local school districts in an educational project
      ♦ Sponsoring EDGE programs
      ♦ Read Across America
      ♦ American Education Week activities (Participate in a lesson/activity-not just reading a book)

5. **General Organization and Quality**

APEX CHAPTER INFORMATION SHEET

CHAPTER:

PSEA REGION:

ADVISOR:

CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

CHAPTER VICE-PRESIDENT:

CHAPTER SECRETARY:

CHAPTER TREASURER:

OTHER OFFICERS:

Advisor Signature: Date:

ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

List all of your activities for each category.

Community Service	Leadership & Membership Development	Political Action & Advocacy	Professional Development

APEX Rubric

Community Service – 1 pt each if 5 members participate in the activity

	A continuous community project held off campus (8 or more visits with dates listed) (Ex. Local Library)*
	Joint project (off/on campus) with another campus organization (define project and list dates)
	Received NEA CREATE Grant *
	Received a grant other than NEA CREATE
	At least 2 projects that benefit the off-campus community (Ex. Pen pal) (2 projects 1pt) (3 or more 2pts)
	At least 2 projects that benefit the on-campus community (2 projects 1pt) (3 or more 2pts)
	Community outreach within your region* (2 projects 1pt) (3 or more 2pts)

Leadership & Membership Development – 1 pt each if 5 members participate in the activity

	Involvement with PSEA – attended region meeting*
	Involvement with PSEA – 2 or more types of activities (EX. Phone bank)
	Attend a local EA meeting (5 member requirement not necessary)
	Hold a chapter meeting with at least 1 EA member present
	Increase in membership from previous year
	Involvement in SPSEA Region activity (2 or more chapters present)
	Proof of communication among membership
	Held regularly scheduled meetings
	Recognition event or documentation for member involvement

Political Action & Advocacy – 1 pt each if 5 members participate in the activity

	Off campus activity with PSEA/PACE for region (1 activity 1pt) (2 or more 2pts)
	Voter registration drive
	Held PACE fundraiser according to PSEA guidelines*
	PSEA/PACE speaker for SPSEA members (1 activity 1pt) (2 or more 2pts)
	Distributed NEA/PSEA political material

Professional Development – 1 pt each if 5 members participate in the activity

	Held professional growth activity (1 point for each type)
	Held a leadership activity – 1 point for each type of activity (Ex. EDGE speaker)
	Organized and participated in NEA/PSEA educational activity (1 activity 1pt) (2 or more 2pts)
	Participated in American Education Week
	Attended a PSEA region professional development activity (not region meeting, 2 SPSEA members minimum)*
	Attend HOD critical issues session (certificate required, 5 member requirement not necessary)
	Attend NEA/RA (5 member requirement not necessary)
	Attended SPSEA Conference previous year (Names required)

General Organization/Quality– 1 pt each

	APEX Chapter Information page
	Activities Information (list of activities **and** table of contents)
	Activities correctly categorized
	No blatant spelling or grammatical errors
	Activities verified and valid within entry (date/title/category)
	Presentation is of professional quality
	Speakers identified by qualification/organization/profession
	Participants are identified either by name or photograph
	Meeting minutes submitted from current school year*

*Used in tie breaker situation