

High school's LEAP program earns Star of Innovation Award



Shakopee High School's Life Evolves Around Possibilities program received the Star of Innovation Award from the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals on May 28.

The award recognizes MASSP member schools that develop and support exemplary and innovative educational programs in their schools. The winning programs must demonstrate a positive impact on education and advocacy for children, be effective and innovative, and show creativity and imagination in bringing about positive school change.

Shakopee High School's LEAP helps improve the academics skills of ESL students who are no longer qualified for ELL services. As it evolved over the past three years, LEAP has become more focused on raising the expectations of ESL students. The program focuses on skill building, connecting to the high school and its resources, goal setting, and helping students apply and find money for post-secondary education. Academic grade monitoring, a customized curriculum, regular professional classroom speakers, college visits, and an ongoing, meaningful and deliberate relationship with the staff help LEAP achieve its goals. The program has been successful with 87 percent of last year's LEAP students currently attending post-secondary programs and many of them have earned scholarships.

Shakopee is one of three Minnesota schools that earned the award. Waubun High School received the award for its Senior Seminar. The program teaches all Waubun seniors post-secondary planning, independent living and financial responsibility. A.I. Jedlicka Middle School/Proctor High School earned the award for its Restorative Action Plan. It is a plan in which the school shifts its focus from punitive to restorative in how student discipline issues are handled.