



**Brandon Hall Group™**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**AWARDS®**  
**2026**

# Excellence Awards Brochure

## Education Technology Excellence Awards

For more details, payment information, a list of previous winners  
and FAQ's, please visit

[www.excellenceawards.brandonhall.com](http://www.excellenceawards.brandonhall.com)



### Contact Us

Email: [awards@brandonhall.com](mailto:awards@brandonhall.com) | Main Website: [www.brandonhall.com](http://www.brandonhall.com)

# About the Excellence Awards

Now entering its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, the Brandon Hall Group™ Excellence Awards is the most prestigious awards program in the industry. Often called the “Academy Awards” by Learning, Talent and Business Executives, the program was one of the first of its kind when it debuted in 1993. The awards recognize the best organizations that have successfully developed and deployed programs, strategies, modalities, processes, systems, and tools that have achieved measurable results. We are honored to receive applications from organizations around the world ranging from small, medium, large, and global enterprises, to government, not-for-profits, and associations.

## Human Capital Management

Open: Closed  
Deadline: Closed  
Announcements: August 13, 2026

### Who should enter:

Training, learning, talent, HR or other related departments can either enter alone or together with a helping organization (such as a vendor aka solution provider, or consultant). Helping organizations cannot enter alone.

## Technology

Open: April 20, 2026  
Deadline: September 4, 2026  
Announcements: December 3, 2026

### Who should enter:

The Technology Program has a dedicated focus on entries from solution providers offering technologies to learning, talent management, talent acquisition, HR, workforce management and sales enablement organizations, as well as technology organizations and departments. Both can enter alone or jointly with their client organizations.

## Education Technology

Open: April 20, 2026  
Deadline: September 4, 2026  
Announcements: December 3, 2026

### Who should enter:

The EdTech Program has a dedicated focus on entries from innovative and cutting-edge trailblazers in education technology. This program is for K-12, Universities, Business Schools, Professional Development and Education Associations, Non-For-Profit, and Government Agencies.

## Excellence in Action

Open: May 4, 2026  
Deadline: September 25, 2026  
Announcements: November 2026

### Who should enter:

Excellence in Action is designed for organizations of all sizes and industries that prioritize employee feedback and strive to create inclusive, thriving workplaces. Whether you're a small startup or a multinational corporation, if you're dedicated to amplifying employee voices and driving positive change, this program is for you.

# Awards FAQs

## Are our entries kept confidential?

In the online entry form you are given the opportunity to decide whether or not you would like Brandon Hall Group to publish your entry. If you decide not to give permission for your entry to be published, please click "No" when asked if you are giving permission to publish when submitting your entry form. If you select "No" – the information you submit will be kept confidential and will not be published in our member center.

## Can we enter if our program is still in development? Or only once completed? What if it's a new program that we just launched? What if it was launched some years ago (i.e. 2-3 years prior to the date we are entering for an award)?

While we do not have timing requirements for when a program is implemented or how long it must be in place, organizations are encouraged to submit once their programs have been in place long enough to show impact and measurable results. This is an important aspect of the judging criteria so it is critical that you can demonstrate the same before submittal.

## Can I request an extension?

Please contact the program director Rachel Cooke at: [awards@brandonhall.com](mailto:awards@brandonhall.com) to discuss an extension.

## What language must the entry be written in?

All entries must be written in English.

## How are winners selected?

Judges score each entry, and then the judging and scoring are reviewed by Brandon Hall Group's executive leadership team, led by Rachel Cooke. The level of the award is determined by the number of points. There is a point range for Gold, Silver, and Bronze. We don't grade on any kind of curve – the point total determines the award level. That is why in some categories, there may be several bronzes, and silvers, but fewer golds. Or if a category is particularly strong, maybe more golds than silver and bronze. And some categories may not have any winners.

## What is the judging criterion?

Each category has its own judging criterion that is unique to the program area.

## Each of the entries will need to show examples of the following:

- Design of the programs or technologies
- The use and objectives of the program
- Overall benefits and measurable results

Supporting graphics, demos, links and videos where appropriate  
Please download our brochure for the full list of descriptions and judging criteria for each category.

If you have additional questions, please contact us at: [awards@brandonhall.com](mailto:awards@brandonhall.com).

## 2026 EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE AWARDS CATEGORIES

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- 5 Best Adaptive Learning Solution >>
- 5 Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solution >>
- 5 Best Arts, Music, or Creative Solution >>
- 5 Best Assessment, Survey and Testing Solution >>
- 5 Best Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality (AR, VR) Solution >>
- 6 Best Authoring Tools Platform >>
- 6 Best Badging and Credentialing Solution >>
- 6 Best Career Planning Solution >>
- 6 Best Classroom Management Platform >>
- 6 Best Collaboration Platform >>
- 6 Best Content Design Platform >>
- 6 Best Creative Tools and Products >>
- 6 Best Curriculum and Instruction Platform >>
- 7 Best Digital Courseware Platform >>
- 7 Best E-learning, Blended, Flipped Classroom Solution or Remote Solution >>
- 7 Best Emerging EdTech Solution >>
- 7 Best Enrollment & Admissions Platform
- 7 Best Learning Management System (LMS) for Education >>
- 7 Best Lesson Planning Platform >>
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**Download the Education Technology Excellence Awards entry form >>**

## Best Accessibility and Special Needs Platform

The category **Best Accessibility and Special Needs Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a platform designed to support learners with special needs and disabilities. Nominees should showcase compliant design based on accessibility standards that remove barriers and enables equal participation. The ideal submission will demonstrate customizable features tailored to diverse learning abilities and cognitive, physical, sensory, or other exceptionalities. Submissions should highlight alternative communication tools, individualized learning paths, and robust accommodations for tests and assignments.

## Best Adaptive Learning Solution

The category **Best Adaptive Learning Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an adaptive learning solution that customizes instruction to each student's unique needs. Its intelligent algorithms assess mastery in real time and adapt courseware difficulty, content, and pace to strengthen comprehension. Robust data analytics provide teachers with actionable insights to target interventions.

## Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solution

The category **Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an artificial intelligence platform that personalizes student learning while providing actionable insights for teachers/instructors. Its adaptive tutorials, personalized assessments, and real-time progress monitoring harness the power of AI to target instruction and promote growth for each individual student/learner.

## Best Arts, Music, or Creative Solution

The category **Best Arts, Music, or Creative Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of platforms that nurture arts education, music instruction, and creative expression. Nominees should provide innovative tools that enable learners to unleash their imagination and bring creative projects to life. The ideal submission will showcase features tailored to arts disciplines like visual arts, dance, theater, music, graphic design, and more. Submissions should demonstrate how the solution helps educators design engaging arts curriculum and share student creations.

## Best Assessment, Survey and Testing Solution

The category **Best Assessment, Survey and Testing Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of solutions for assessment, surveys, and testing. Nominees should enable educators to gauge student learning through formative, summative, benchmark, and diagnostic evaluations. The ideal submission will showcase advanced analytics and reporting capabilities to derive actionable insights from assessment data. Applicants should demonstrate how the solution saves time, provides feedback loops, and generates metrics to personalize instruction. These pioneering solutions drive the next generation of data-driven education by seamlessly integrating assessment into teaching and learning.

## Best Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality (AR, VR) Solution

The category **Best Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality (AR, VR) Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of solutions that transport learners to new worlds for immersive learning experiences. Nominees should showcase innovative AR/VR technology used to enable students to visualize concepts, explore environments, and engage with learning in multidimensional ways. The ideal submission will demonstrate seamless integration of interactive 3D/VR content and compatibility with AR/VR devices. Submissions should highlight intuitive creation tools that empower educators and learners to author customized AR/VR learning modules.

## Best Authoring Tools Platform

The category **Best Authoring Tools Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an authoring platform that enables educators to easily create interactive online lessons, assessments, and learning activities. Its drag-and-drop interface, rich media integration, and real-time collaboration allow teachers to develop engaging digital curriculum aligned to standards.

## Best Badging and Credentialing Solution

The category **Best Badging and Credentialing Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is a written description that describes a robust badging and credentialing platform that allows educators to create, issue, and manage digital badges aligned to learning standards and competencies. Its portfolio builder and share tools empower students/learners to showcase credentials to colleges, employers, and more.

## Best Career Planning Solution

The category **Best Career Planning Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a comprehensive career preparation and planning platform that provides personalized guidance and tools to middle school, high school, and college students. Its engaging assessments, digital portfolios, and extensive career profiles empower students to explore interests, build skills, and map their paths to dream careers.

## Best Classroom Management Platform

The category **Best Classroom Management Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a comprehensive classroom management platform that transforms traditional classrooms into dynamic learning environments. Its user-friendly dashboard, behavior tools, monitoring features, and integration with leading edtech apps help teachers/instructors boost efficiency, achievement, and involvement.

## Best Collaboration Platform

The category **Best Collaboration Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an innovative digital collaboration platform that facilitates active learning and teamwork. Its real-time document editing, virtual whiteboards, and built-in communication tools empower students to collaborate on projects and connect with peers. Seamless LMS integration provides a unified learning experience.

## Best Content Design Platform

The category **Best Content Design Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an intuitive content design platform that streamlines curriculum development for personalized learning. Its flexible templates, standards alignment tools, and built-in assessments empower educators to create adaptable digital courseware, lessons, and learning resources.

## Best Creative Tools and Products

The category **Best Creative Tools and Products** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an online platform with intuitive, creative apps that allow learners and instructors to make videos, games, 3D models, digital art, podcasts, and more. Its drag-and-drop interfaces, multimedia libraries, collaboration tools, and custom portfolios empower imagination and unlock learning through creation.

## Best Curriculum and Instruction Platform

The category **Best Curriculum and Instruction Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a curriculum and instruction platform that supports personalized learning. It provides standards-aligned lesson planning tools, interactive courseware, assessments, grading, reporting, and parent communication to engage students and enhance instruction.

## Best Digital Courseware Platform

The category **Best Digital Courseware Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of standards-aligned digital courseware that adapts to each student's needs for personalized learning. Its interactive lessons, multimedia resources, formative assessments, and real-time data provide engaging and effective instruction across all subjects and grade levels.

## Best E-learning, Blended, Flipped Classroom Solution or Remote Solution

The category **Best E-learning, Blended, Flipped Classroom Solution, or Remote Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an innovative digital learning solution for blended, flipped, and remote instruction. Its interactive courseware, video conferencing, LMS integration, and real-time analytics provide a seamless experience across in-class and virtual settings to drive student engagement and achievement.

## Best Emerging EdTech Solution

The category **Best Emerging EdTech Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of innovation in new, emerging education technologies shaping the future of teaching and learning. Nominees should demonstrate cutting-edge capabilities made possible by inventive uses of technology. The ideal submission will showcase how it pushes boundaries and establishes a new standard for the student experience and instructional best practices. Submissions should highlight the solution's novelty and illustrate its potential for wide-scale impact in education.

## Best Enrollment & Admissions Platform

The category **Best Enrollment & Admissions Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an intuitive enrollment and admissions platform that simplifies the process for families and schools. Its interactive search tools, online applications, and streamlined communications provide a centralized hub to find the right fit from pre-K to college.

## Best Learning Management System (LMS) for Education

The category **Best Learning Management System (LMS) for Education** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a flexible, all-in-one learning management platform tailored for K-12 and higher Education. Its user-friendly interface, customizable courses, gradebook, assessments, analytics, and seamless integrations unite virtual and in-person learning.

## Best Lesson Planning Platform

The category **Best Lesson Planning Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an intuitive online lesson planning platform that helps teachers efficiently create engaging learning experiences. Robust templates, standards alignment tools, differentiated instruction resources, and content sharing simplify workflow from unit design to daily lessons.

## Best Literacy and Reading Platform

The category **Best Literacy and Reading Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an engaging literacy platform that builds strong readers through adaptive lessons, interactive ebooks, and real-time progress monitoring. Its research-backed approach develops phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency at every grade level.

## Best Mobile App for Education

The category **Best Mobile App for Education** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an innovative and engaging learning experience for students. Nominees should demonstrate an exceptional user interface and design that promotes active learning, collaboration, creativity, and discovery. The ideal submission will showcase how the mobility, accessibility, and unique capabilities of the application platform are leveraged to transform education. Submissions will be evaluated on overall innovation, pedagogical design, content quality, user experience, and engagement.

## Best Online Courses or MOOCs Solution

The category **Best Online Courses or MOOCs Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of immersive online courses and MOOCs featuring standards-aligned interactive video lessons, assessments, discussions, and real-time analytics. Its robust platform delivers an engaging learning experience across K-12 and higher education subjects.

## Best Personalized Learning Platform

The category **Best Personalized Learning Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an intelligent, personalized learning platform that customizes education for each student's strengths and needs. Its adaptive curriculum, targeted interventions, and robust analytics empower educators to provide meaningful, differentiated instruction at scale.

## Best Presentation Tools

The category **Best Presentation Tools** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of excellence in presentation software and tools that boost teacher and student slide deck creation, communication, collaboration, and delivery. Nominees should provide easy-to-use, intuitive features that help educators and learners craft visually compelling and interactive presentations. The ideal submission will demonstrate innovative capabilities that encourage active learning, collaboration, and audience engagement before, during, and after presentations. Submissions should showcase how the tool promotes presentation literacy, simplifies complex processes, and integrates with commonly used education platforms and devices. This category honors the most outstanding presentation solution that enables impactful slide-based lessons, projects, and speeches.

## Best Recruiting, Hiring for Internships Platform

The category **Best Recruiting, Hiring for Internships Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a solution that expedites recruiting and hiring top talent for education positions and internships. Its two-way matching uses AI to connect applicants with the right roles based on skills, experience, and preferences, improving outcomes for both candidates and institutions.

## Best Research and Resources Platform

The category **Best Research and Resources Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of an online platform that provides educators with high-quality, pedagogically relevant resources to enhance teaching and learning. Nominees should enable simple discovery and access to trusted content like lesson plans, instructional videos, images, and interactive games. The ideal submission will demonstrate how the platform saves teachers time while connecting them to resources aligned to standards across subjects and grade levels. Submissions should showcase advanced search and recommendation capabilities, teacher collaboration and resource-sharing opportunities, and seamless integration with popular learning management systems.

### Best STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) Solution

The category **Best STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of educational technology promoting integrated STREAM learning. Nominees should enable interdisciplinary, project-based instruction spanning science, tech, research, engineering, arts, and math content areas. The ideal submission will demonstrate how it helps educators facilitate real-world application of STREAM skills like critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. Submissions should showcase adaptive tools tailored to diverse learning abilities and interests, along with robust assessment capabilities. This category honors the most outstanding edtech solution that takes an integrated approach to developing well-rounded STREAM competencies in students. By transcending siloed subject matter divisions, these pioneering platforms are shaping the future of skills-based, hands-on learning.

### Best Student Data Privacy Solution

The category **Best Student Data Privacy Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of solutions that prioritize protecting student data privacy. Nominees should demonstrate compliance with relevant privacy laws and regulations, as well as a commitment to transparency around data collection practices. The ideal submission will showcase technological safeguards like encryption, access controls, and stringent cybersecurity protocols. Submissions should highlight how the solution empowers schools and districts to maintain ownership over student data while preventing unauthorized access and use. This category honors the most outstanding education technology that holistically addresses data privacy needs for students, teachers, parents, and administrators alike.

### Best Student Study Tools

The category **Best Student Study Tools** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of a solution that supports effective student studying and exam preparation. Nominees should provide tools to help learners actively engage with course material, retain knowledge, and assess understanding. The ideal submission will showcase innovative features that personalize the studying experience and adapt to each student's learning patterns. Submissions should demonstrate how the solution promotes productive study habits while addressing exam stress and test anxiety.

### Best Tutoring Solution

The category **Best Tutoring Solution** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of solutions that facilitate and enhance tutoring relationships for academic support. Nominees should leverage technology to connect individual learners with qualified tutors in virtual and/or in-person settings. The ideal submission will showcase features that personalize tutoring to student needs and seamlessly enable sessions via video chat, file sharing, screen sharing, and more. Submissions should demonstrate how the solution builds relationships, tracks progress, and incorporates interactive tools to boost engagement. This category honors the most outstanding platform that expands access to tutoring while optimizing its impact and effectiveness, driving better outcomes for all students.

### Best Video-Based Learning Platform

The category **Best Video-Based Learning Platform** in the Excellence Education Technology Program is for a written description of platforms that engage learners through immersive multimedia experiences. Nominees should showcase extensive libraries of standards-aligned video lessons, segments, lectures, demonstrations, and more. The ideal submission will demonstrate interactive viewing tools like note-taking, quizzes, commenting, and seamless integration with LMS platforms. Submissions should highlight advanced discovery features that connect users to relevant video content.

### Best Innovative Generative AI-Powered Learning Solution

The category **Best Innovative Generative AI-Powered Learning Solution** category in the Ed Tech Excellence Awards is for a written description of a solution that harnesses the power of generative AI to create dynamic, adaptive learning experiences. These solutions should demonstrate a capacity to personalize content, provide intelligent feedback or and foster deeper student engagement through innovative approaches.