



House of Representatives
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House Committees

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Education Innovation and Career Preparation Committee
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**Representative Ambler & Hillsborough County Schools Receive
National Award for “Ought To Be A Law” Competition**

ORLANDO, FL- On March 31, 2008, Representative Kevin C. Ambler (R-Tampa) and Hillsborough County Public Schools Board Members were honored with a first place award in the *American School Board Journal's* 14th annual Magna Awards program held at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando yesterday afternoon.

The district was honored in the 20,000 students and above enrollment category for the “Ought to Be a Law” Student Bill Drafting Competition. The first program of its kind in the nation, the competition offers students the chance to compete in a bill drafting contest. Selected students from Hillsborough County Public Schools then join the Student Legislation Council and lobby their bill to lawmakers in Tallahassee with the hopes of their bill passing through the process and becoming an actual law.

“It is an honor to be here today and to have the distinction of being a first-place Magna Award winner. The success of the ‘Ought to be a Law’ program should be a reminder to leaders in education and in government of the importance of civics being taught in our schools. After finishing our program, the students are empowered to go back to their schools, families, communities, and later, their colleges and teach others what they have learned as well as enact positive change,” Rep. Ambler stated during the ceremony.

The Magna Awards recognize districts across the country for outstanding programs that advance student learning and encourage community involvement in schools. This year’s three grand prize, 15 first place, and 15 honorable mention winners were selected based on three enrollment categories: less than 5,000 students, 5,000 to 20,000, and 20,000 and above.

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“For more than a decade, the Magna Awards have showcased innovation and bold steps taken by school districts every day to address the many challenges facing public education,” said Marilee Rist, *ASBJ*'s publisher and assistant executive director of the National School Boards Association (NSBA). “This year’s entries reflect the hard work of school boards, superintendents, and staff who strive to meet changing community needs in creative and innovative ways.”

American School Board Journal initiated the Magna Awards in 1995 to recognize school boards for taking bold and innovative steps to improve their educational programs. An independent panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators selected this year's winners and honorable mention districts from more than 250 submissions. The 2008 winners are highlighted in a special supplement to the April issue of *ASBJ*.

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