



# “Yes I Can” Award Nomination Information and Application

## *Illinois Council for Exceptional Children*

### Overview and Purpose

The Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC) is a unit of the Council for Exceptional Children. ICEC is a comprised group of individuals within the field of special education who are dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities.

The “Yes I Can” Awards program honors and celebrates the achievements of children and youth (ages 2-21) with exceptionalities. The purpose of the award is to encourage individuals to seek their highest potential and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

### Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must be 2–21 years of age when they are nominated. The nominee must have an identified disability. Past “Yes I Can” Award recipients are not eligible for re-nomination for the same category.

### ICEC Award Benefits

Each Yes I Can Award recipient will:

- Be invited to attend the ICEC Fall Convention awards ceremony luncheon to receive their award.
- Receive a “Yes I Can” Award Certificate.
  - Braille and large print certificates are available
- Be featured on ICEC’s website and additional publicity sources.
- Have their nomination submitted to the National CEC award review committee.

### Nomination Procedures

- ***All nomination materials must be submitted by May 1st of the calendar year. Incomplete nominations will not be considered for selection.***
- Nominations may be submitted by anyone (including: the nominee themselves, teachers, principals, related service providers, friends, and parents).
- Each candidate may be nominated in only one category.
- Nominations may be submitted electronically via the online form, e-mailed attachment of the downloadable form, or by mail.
- All materials submitted become the property of the ICEC and will not be returned.
- All nominations and recipients will be notified by August of the committee’s decision.



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### Eligible Nomination Categories

*(may be nominated for one area only)*

- **Academics:** Achievement in a particular subject area such as math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, or foreign language; overall academic achievement; or a high level of achievement on standardized tests.
- **Arts:** Achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression.
- **School & Community Activities:** Achievement in organized activities at the school or community level through groups such as school-based clubs/activities (yearbook, theater, debate, tutoring, peer mentoring, social, service) or community-based clubs/activities (volunteer work, Boy/Girl Scouts, places of worship, service, cleanup campaigns).
- **Self-Advocacy:** Achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one’s goals, or effectively obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others.
- **Technology:** Achievement through the use of assistive and adaptive technology devices and equipment (computerized or otherwise).
- **Transition:** Achievement in mastering activities that leads to successful experiences in the areas of work, vocational training, or independent living.

### How to Complete and Submit the Nomination Form

The nomination form is divided into three sections:

- **Section A: Nomination Information**
- **Section B: Statement of Achievement**
- **Section C: Video Documentation**



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### **Section A: Nomination Information**

Double-check that the nominee’s name is spelled correctly on ALL materials, as it will be printed on his/her Certificate of Accomplishment.

### **Section B: Statement of Achievement**

In 1,000 words or less, describe why the nominee deserves to receive this award. Include information such as the challenges the student encountered prior to his or her accomplishments, his or her exceptionality/exceptionalities, the type of special education services provided to the nominee, the student’s achievements in his or her category of nomination, the setting in which these accomplishments occurred, and the impact these accomplishments have had on the student or others.

Please note that if the nominee is selected as a recipient, the responses to the questions below may be used by ICEC for the awards and publicity purposes.

### **Section C: Video Documentation**

Videos should support the Statement of Achievement (Section B) indicating why the nominee deserves this award. This video should highlight the nominee’s work/achievements, his or her daily life, or a statement from the nominee about the impact that his/her accomplishments have had.

- Videos should be no more than 5 minutes in length.
- Videos should be uploaded to YouTube or another video sharing service, and the link should be provided with the nomination.

*The following are suggestions for nominee video content for each category:*

- Academics—display/discussion of school transcripts, report cards, accelerated programs, academic awards, work samples, statement of change in student’s academic achievement.
- Arts—copies of artwork, event programs, recordings of student’s musical performances, dance performances, drama performances, and so on.



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- School & Community Activities—record of activities, statements from activity leaders, visual display of certificates, awards.
- Self-Advocacy—statement of how the student educates others (teachers, students, community) on their needs or the needs of others with disabilities; examples of the accommodations the student has requested to enhance learning and accessibility.
- Technology—nominee using their technology in every day situations, record of technology used, how it has impacted the student or others, skills the student has learned through technology use.
- Transition—employment history, performance reviews, certificates, awards, statement of achievement from employers/co-workers/teachers/coaches/transition officers, record of progress made in acquiring work, vocational, or independent living skills.

**Please contact the ICEC “Yes I Can” Award Chairperson with any questions, if you have any trouble with the electronic nomination form(s), or to submit a nomination.**

### **ICEC “Yes I Can” Award Chairperson:**

**Lindsey Frank (Dalesandro)**

**[ljdalesandro@gmail.com](mailto:ljdalesandro@gmail.com)**

**1903 N. Pinetree Drive**

**Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

**Thank you for considering nominating a  
child/youth to receive the  
ICEC “Yes I Can” Award**



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## “Yes I Can” Award Nomination Application

*Electronic Version Available at: <http://illinoiscec.org/yes-i-can-award-forms/>*

### Section A: Nomination Information

Please fill out the following information about the nominee, his/her family (guardian) contact, his/her school, and the nominator.

#### **Nominee Information (Please include a digital picture of the nominee)**

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Nomination (Select one area only):

- Academics
- Arts
- School & Community Activities
- Self-Advocacy
- Technology
- Transition (Independent Living, Work or Vocational Training)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Disability: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Certificate Type:      Standard                      Large-Print                      Braille



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## **Nominee’s Family Information**

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

## **Nominee’s School Information**

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Nominator Information**

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Continued)*



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How do you know the nominee?

- Parent/Guardian
- Family Friend
- Teacher/Educational Professional
- Self-Nomination
- Other:

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Are you an ICEC/CEC Member?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list your ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the “Yes I Can” Award?

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## **Section B: Statement of Achievement**

In 1,000 words or less, describe why the nominee deserves to receive this award. Include information such as the challenges the student encountered prior to his or her accomplishments, his or her exceptionality/exceptionalities, the type of special education services provided to the nominee, the student’s achievements in his or her category of nomination, the setting in which these accomplishments occurred, and the impact these accomplishments have had on the student or others.

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## **Section C: Video Documentation**

Videos should support the Statement of Achievement (Section B) indicating why the nominee deserves this award. This video should highlight the nominee’s work/achievements, his or her daily life, or a statement from the nominee about the impact that his/her accomplishments have had.

- Videos should be no more than 5 minutes in length.
- Videos should be uploaded to YouTube or another video sharing service, and the link should be provided with the nomination.

## **Submitting the Nomination**

Submit application materials, and any additional supporting documents to:

### **ICEC “Yes I Can” Award Chairperson:**

**Lindsey Frank (Dalesandro)**  
**Lindsey.Frank2016@gmail.com**  
**1903 N. Pinetree Drive**  
**Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

Or complete online at:

<http://illinoiscec.org/yes-i-can-award-forms/>

**Thank you for your  
“Yes I Can” Award Nomination**