Amplify After School Awards 2026

AMPLIFY AFTER SCHOOL — SYMPOSIUM — 2026

Celebrating champions of the after-school sector in South Africa within the Learning Trust's network

The Learning Trust is proud to announce the launch of the Amplify After School Programme Awards, an annual celebration recognising outstanding individuals who are strengthening, innovating, and transforming the after-school ecosystem across South Africa.

About the Amplify After School Programme Awards

The Amplify Awards honour exceptional After School Programmes (ASPs) and practitioners who demonstrate commitment, creativity and leadership in supporting children and young people beyond the school day. These champions work in diverse contexts, including community-based organisations, schools, NGOs and hybrid models, and play a critical role in advancing equity, learning, wellbeing and opportunity.

Award recipients will be recognised at the **Amplify After School Programme Awards** event on **Wednesday, 25 February 2026, at 5.30 pm** during an evening cocktail event, hosted by The Learning Trust, alongside leaders from education, philanthropy, civil society, government and the after-school sector at the **Lagoon Beach Hotel and Spa, Milnerton, Cape Town, South Africa.**

Who Can Be Nominated?

- Organisations and Practitioners (where specified)
- Have regular and consistent contact with children and/or youth, working directly with children and/or youth in after-school, extended learning, or enrichment programmes.
- Be based in South Africa and working within the after-school or out-of-school-time sector.
- Have at least two (2) years of experience at their current organisation as at the nomination closing date.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to children, families, and communities through their work.
- The Learning Trust Network includes grantees, alumni, and implementing partners in the Catch-Up Coalition and ASPs engaged with TLT directly.

Not eligible:

- Executive Directors / CEOs whose primary role is organisational leadership rather than direct programme delivery.

Special consideration may be given to nominees who participated as beneficiaries or were employed, then moved on to some other place.

Amplify After School Awards - Criteria

Amplify After School Champion organisations and practitioners who:

- Have made a demonstrable impact on children, youth, families, or communities
- Show innovation and creativity in programme design or delivery
- Act as mentors, role models, and advocates for young people
- Demonstrate leadership and collaboration within the after-school ecosystem
- Reflect the lived realities, cultures, and strengths of the communities they serve.

Award Benefits

Selected award recipients will receive:

- Formal recognition at the Amplify After-School Programme Awards Ceremony
- A commemorative award
- Sector-wide visibility through The Learning Trust's communications platforms
- Opportunities to participate in learning, storytelling, and sector-building initiatives linked to Amplify
- Certification for the top 3 finalists in each category.

Selection Process

A Selection Committee convened by The Learning Trust — comprising sector leaders and partners will review all eligible nominations.

Selections will be based on:

- Depth and consistency of commitment
- Quality and innovation of practice
- Leadership and collaboration
- Length of service in the after-school field
- Scale and depth of impact

All nominees will be notified of outcomes once the process is complete.

Award Categories

1. **Excellence in Learner Support:** Recognises organisations and practitioners delivering quality after-school support that leads to positive learner outcomes and reflects alignment to ASP Quality Standards.
2. **Innovation in Practice:** Recognises organisations' and practitioners' creative and effective approaches to after-school programming, including new methods, models, or innovative use of technology to improve learning.
3. **Rising Star Awards:** Recognise emerging organisations and practitioners that demonstrate strong potential, quality practices and a clear growth trajectory.
4. **Sector Amplifier Award:** Recognises organisations that actively promote and strengthen the after-school sector through advocacy, storytelling, media engagement or public campaigns.

Key Dates

- Nominations close: Wednesday, **18 February 2026**
- Awards ceremony: The Lagoon Beach Hotel and Spa, Milnerton, Cape Town

How to Nominate

- Anyone can nominate, colleagues, organisational leaders, parents, community members, partners, or individuals themselves.
- Strong nominations include real examples of impact, supported by testimonials, photos, or short videos.

👉 Nomination LINK: https://bit.ly/Amplify-Awards2026

Questions?

- **For further information about the Amplify After-School Programme Awards or the nomination process, please contact us at info@thelearningtrust.org**

Scan the QR Code below to submit a nomination.

Hosted by

THE LEARNING TRUST
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM