



The Louisiana Department of Education in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), recognizes and celebrates some of the state’s most exceptional educators through the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those teachers and leaders who are making exceptional gains with Louisiana’s youngest learners. Their commitment to the growth and success of children to enter Kindergarten ready exemplifies Louisiana’s teaching profession.

SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE

PHASE	TIMELINE	DESCRIPTION
Nominations Portal Open	August 22 - September 22, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nominations portal is open from August 22 - September 22. Upon portal close, the nomination information is shared with school systems.
Application Release	October 11, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department releases Teacher and Principal of the Year application materials for the 2023-2024 school year. Visit the Resources Library and Award’s page.
Informational Overview Calls for Candidates and Stakeholders	October 2023 - January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist candidates, coordinators and stakeholders with the application process, informational calls and help desk calls will be conducted. On these calls, information will be shared about the applications/timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See call details here.
State-level Applications Due	January 11, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All candidates are invited to complete their application with the assistance of their local Community Network Lead Agency, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, or other colleagues. By January 11, state candidates are to submit their application in the Teacher and Leader of the Year online.
Finalists Announced	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department names the Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists.
Finalist Interviews	Spring 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State selection committees (composed of community and education leaders) conduct virtual interviews with the Finalists.
Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala	July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025 Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists will be recognized and celebrated at the <i>18th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala</i> that will be held in New Orleans. On this evening overall winners will be named. This exciting event is co-sponsored by Dream Teachers.

Questions- excellenteducators@la.gov or earlychildhood@la.gov.