

Celebrating Excellence in School Support, Health, and Physical Activity

The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to recognize the individuals and schools that go above and beyond to create thriving learning environments for students across the state. Through three distinct awards, **Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year**, **School Health Service Provider of the Year**, and the **School Physical Activity Award**, the Department honors the vital contributions of support staff, health providers, and school communities in promoting student success.

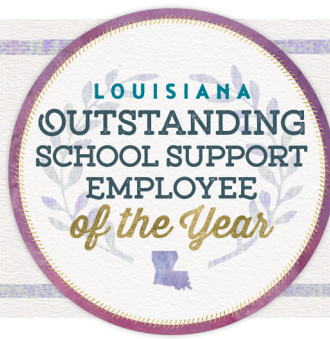
These award programs celebrate exceptional support personnel and schools that champion active, healthy lifestyles. Together, the honorees exemplify the heart, dedication, and impact that drive excellence in Louisiana schools. **Below is the list of finalists.**

School Health Service Provider of the Year

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that student health plays a vital role in education and that school health providers are the critical link in ensuring health service delivery to students. Through the School Health Service Provider of the Year program, the Department recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, and licensed behavioral health providers (LCSW/LMSW, LPC, and psychologists). This program provides an opportunity to acknowledge school health service providers who demonstrate superior provision of health services in schools and support the expansion of health services in schools.

2025 School Health Service Provider of the Year Finalists

District/School System	Candidate's Name	Area of Responsibility
Ascension Parish	Sue Simpson	Physical Therapist
Ouachita Parish	Melissa Batson	Occupational Therapist
Plaquemines Parish	Rebecca Borne Amos	Nurse
Richland Parish	Emilee Trisler Turner	Speech Therapist
St. Tammany Parish	Keri Ann Krycki	Behavior Health (LPC, LCSW, LMSW, Licensed Psychologist)

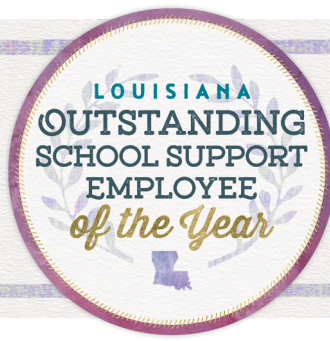


Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that school support staff members play a vital role in a school's academic success. Through the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year awards program, the Department recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional support staff who have rendered time and talent beyond the call of duty. These staff members may include clerical or custodial personnel, food service workers, maintenance staff, paraprofessionals, school bus drivers, teacher aides, or any other employee who is not required to hold a teacher's certificate as a condition of employment.

2025 Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Finalists

District/School System	School Name	Candidate's Name	Area of Responsibility
Bienville Parish	Ringgold Jr. High School	Rhonda Whitfield	Food Service Worker
Calcasieu Parish	Iowa High School	Eva Davis	Custodial
DeSoto Parish	Mansfield Elementary School	Bettie Carter	Paraprofessional
Evangeline Parish	Evangeline Parish Media Center	Pauline Toussaint	Clerical
Jefferson Parish	Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence	Sherrill Donald	Paraprofessional
Lafourche Parish	Sixth Ward Middle School	Rodney Tabor	Custodial
Ouachita Parish	West Ouachita High School	Mary Lea Dunn	Paraprofessional
St. Landry Parish	Palmetto Elementary School	Laura Jackson	Paraprofessional
St. Mary Parish	Raintree Elementary School	Donella Wagner	Custodial
St. Tammany Parish	St. Tammany Parish Schools	Mary Anne Ladner	Other (Brailist)



School Physical Activity

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that healthy and physically active students tend to have better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance, and classroom behaviors. Additionally, schools play a vital role in allowing students the opportunity for regular physical activity before, during, and after school. To recognize outstanding public elementary and secondary schools that are implementing an outstanding physical activity program, the Department will recognize and honor exemplary schools through the School Physical Activity Award program. An exemplary school for this award must demonstrate physical activity throughout the day, including physical education classes, physical activity before and after school, physical activity during school hours, family and community engagement activities, and staff involvement.

2025 School Physical Activity Finalists

District/School System	School Name	Grades at School	Principal Name
Bossier Parish	Plantation Park Elementary	K - 5	Rachel Stroud
Claiborne Parish	Homer High School	9 - 12	Alexandria Feaster
East Feliciana Parish	East Feliciana STEAM	6 - 8	Kimberly J. Glascock
Livingston Parish	South Live Oak Elementary	K - 4	Amy Savage
Orleans Parish	New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy	8 - 12	Alexis Long
St. Tammany Parish	Bonne Ecole Elementary	PK - 6	Julie Lupo