



New Teacher of the Year Application

2025-2026

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year, and the **New** Teacher of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge educators who are achieving excellence.

The **New** Teacher of the Year program recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional new educators. This program provides an opportunity to acknowledge those new teachers who are already demonstrating excellence in the classroom and their commitment to student success that exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession. The **New** Teacher of the Year program recognizes the outstanding contributions of a first-year classroom teacher.

An exemplary candidate for Teacher of the Year is one who:

- Demonstrates **excellence and expertise** in the field, **guiding students** (and for principals, also teachers) of **all** backgrounds and abilities to **achieve success**.
- Demonstrates **leadership** and **innovation** in and outside of the school building walls and **helps students/education stakeholders be successful**.
- **Builds collaborative relationships** with **colleagues, students, and families** to create a classroom environment that is respectful, welcoming, and **positively impacts student growth and learning**.
- **Deliberately connects** the classroom/school to the **community** to positively **impact the students, school and community**.
- **Is inspiring, compelling, and professional** and expresses themselves in an **engaging and clear way**, and has the ability to **connect with and represent** the state.

Qualifications

- On the application deadline, the new teacher has less than one year of full time teaching experience.
- The applicant teaches full time in a publicly funded school in Louisiana.

District and state-level application process:

- School systems may submit up to three nominees: an elementary, middle, and high school New Teacher of the Year.
- School systems may use this application or select their own process for identifying their New Teacher of the Year honorees to submit to the state-level competition. School systems using this application may streamline the process for their local-level competition, such as having candidates respond to the first written reflection question only.
- New teachers taking part in the state-level competition will submit their applications in the online portal that will open late November, 2025. Candidates should save all application materials electronically for future reference.

- State-level applications are due in the online application portal by Friday, January 21, 2026.

A complete state-level application includes:

- Basic information, including a bio and social media quote
- Résumé (two pages or less)
- Responses to three written reflection questions
- Teaching video and lesson plan
- Up to three letters of recommendation
- Candidate consent form
- Student consent forms (Needed for each student included in the application, such as in video/photos/etc.)
- Supplemental materials may be submitted to accompany the written/video responses and application. (Optional) These materials may be in any format, such as a chart, news article, video, photos, etc. Please label all materials accordingly to clearly reflect the task they are accompanying.

Below is the information that state level candidates will submit in the online portal.

I. BASIC INFORMATION:

Name:

Phone Number (cell preferred):

Preferred Email:

School:

School System/District:

Grade(s) You Teach:

Subject(s) You Teach:

- II. **Bio:** Add your professional bio in the textbox below. Please follow the guidelines outlined [here](#). (250 words or less)

- III. **Original Social Media Quote:** Add an original social media quote (that could be used in print) in the textbox below that captures the essence of you as an educator. (280 character limit)

- IV. **Written Reflection Response One:** Add your response to the following prompt in the textbox below. Note: You may also submit supplemental materials to accompany your response. (Optional)

Why did you decide to become an educator? What impact have you had on students in your first few months in the classroom? In your response, provide specific examples of how you currently and will continue to meet Louisiana's Educational Priorities (You may write about one or more priorities.)

- Early childhood leading to kindergarten readiness
- Literacy instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- Foundational math instruction advancing from conceptual understanding
- Opportunities ensuring a meaningful high school experience
- An effective teacher for every student
- Expand educational choice for students and families

- V. **Written Reflection Response Two:** Add your response to the following prompt in the textbox below. You may also submit optional, supplemental materials to accompany your response (Documents may be in any format such as a chart, news article, video, photos, etc.)

There are many challenges to attracting students to pursue a career in education. How did your expectations of teaching align to the realities of teaching? What would you say to young people about why pursuing a career in education is a good choice?
(750 words or less)

- VI. **Written Reflection Response Three:** Add your response to the following prompt in the textbox below. You may also submit optional supplemental materials to accompany your response. (Documents may be in any format, such as a chart, news article, video, photos, etc.)

How do you ensure that you are continuously growing as an educator? Where do you want to be professionally in five years? Ten years?
(750 words or less)

- VII. **TEACHING VIDEO/LESSON PLAN:** Add the YouTube video URL in the textbox below. Submit your lesson plan with your application.

- VIII. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:** If there are any additional materials that would strengthen your application, but you weren't asked to share, please submit along with your complete application. Please clearly label each document to include the candidate's name/district, the task the item accompanies, as well as the New Teacher of the Year program, such as "Mary Smith_Acadia_Written Reflection 1_NewTOY."

- IX. **SIGNATURES/APPROVAL:** Please add your name and the name of your principal/school leader below. Doing so indicates that your supervisor supports the submission of your application.

Teacher's Name:

Principal/School Leader's Name:

• **Questions-**

- Visit the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page or [NTE page](#) on the [LDOE website](#) for resources.
- Email laurie.carlton@la.gov with any questions.