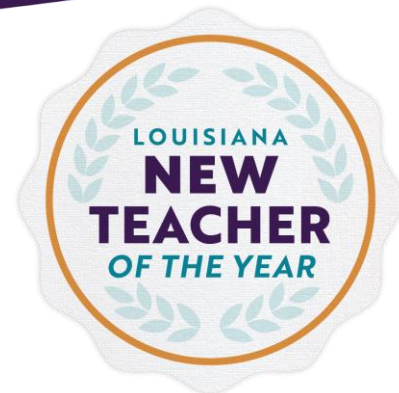




New Teacher of the Year Application

2026-2027

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.

- 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.

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, creating pathways for **students/teachers to excel**.
- **Builds collaborative relationships** with **colleagues, students, and families** to create a **school environment** that is respectful, welcoming, and **positively impacts** student/teacher growth and achievement.
- **Deliberately connects** the classroom/school to the **community** to positively **impact the students, school, and community**.
- Is **inspiring, compelling, professional**, and expresses themselves in an **engaging and clear way**, and demonstrates the ability to **connect with and represent** the state.

Selection panelists will evaluate applications holistically using these competencies across all application components. Candidates are not expected to address every competency in every response.

School system and state-level application process:

- 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 their local-level competition process, for example, by having candidates respond to the first written reflection question.
- Teachers participating in the state-level process will submit their applications through an online application portal. Candidates should save all application materials electronically for future reference.
- State-level applications are due in the online application portal by Thursday, January 14, 2027. School systems will be notified when the state-level online application portal opens.

A complete state-level application includes:

- Basic information, including a [bio](#), six-word story, and social media quote
- Résumé (two pages or less)

- Responses to three written reflection questions and one video prompt
- Teaching video and lesson plan
- Up to three letters of recommendation
- [Honoree Headshot](#)
- [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 charts, news articles, videos, or photos, and should provide meaningful evidence aligned to the selection criteria.
 - Please label all materials clearly to reflect the task they accompany.

Basic Information

Name:

Phone Number (cell preferred):

Preferred Email:

School:

School System/District:

Grade(s) You Teach:

Subject(s) You Teach:

Bio

Add a professional biography that highlights your educational career, accomplishments, leadership experiences, and commitment to student success. Please follow these [guidelines](#). (250 words or less)

Directions for Reflections

Add your written responses to the three prompts below. The upload of supplemental materials is optional and may be submitted to provide additional evidence of your response. Supplemental materials may be in any format, such as charts, news articles, videos, photos, or other relevant documentation.

Written Reflection Response One

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
- Literary 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

Written Reflection Response Two

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)

Written Reflection Response Three

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)

Teaching Video/Lesson Plan

Directions: Add the YouTube video URL below. Submit a lesson plan that corresponds to the recorded lesson and provides sufficient context for reviewers to understand the instructional goals, learning activities, and assessment of student learning demonstrated in the video.

The teaching video should not exceed 15 minutes and may be edited to highlight the most representative portions of instruction. See the [Teaching Video Guide](#) for additional information and guidance.

Additional Items

- Upload your Resume/CV
- Letters of Recommendation (up to three)
- Principal/School Leaders Name
- System Level Coordinator's Name

Signatures/Approval

Please add your name and your immediate supervisor's name below. Doing so indicates that your supervisor supports your application submission. I acknowledge that all application scores, reviewer notes, comments, and evaluations are confidential and will not be provided to me.

Teacher's Name:

Principal/School Leader's Name:

Consent Forms

Awards Program Consent Form. Please sign and upload the Candidate Consent form.

Student Consent Forms. There must be a signed consent form for all students who appear in teaching video or in any attached photographs, newspaper articles, etc. Please scan all Student Consent Forms into one PDF before uploading.

Questions

- Visit the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page
- Email mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov