

School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Programs



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Awards Initiatives Featured:
 - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Award
 - School Health Service Provider of the Year Award
 - School Physical Activity Award
- Information to be Covered:
 - Award Programs Overview
 - Benefits of the Awards Participation
 - Timelines
 - Application Process, Portals, and Tips
 - Next Steps
 - Questions



School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards

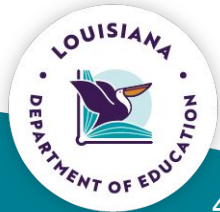
- The Louisiana **Department** of Education recognizes that **outstanding school support staff and vibrant school health** programs play a vital role in the education process.
- Through the following awards programs, some of the state's most exceptional schools and support staff are recognized and celebrated.
 - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year
 - School Health Service Provider of the Year
 - School Physical Activity Award



School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards

Timeline Documents:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)



Benefits of Participation



Benefits to School Systems

Provides school systems with the opportunity to:

- **Recognize, honor, and celebrate outstanding** school support **employees**, school health service providers, and **schools** with outstanding physical activity programs
- Shine the light on **models of excellence** that are contributing to school system, and student success
- Call **statewide attention to great work** taking place in school systems
- **Recruit** and **retain** outstanding school and school support staff
- The overall **Outstanding School Support Employee** of the Year may submit a **national application**, bringing national attention to the school system



Benefits to Candidates

Provides the school support employee and schools with outstanding physical activity programs the opportunity to:

- Be **recognized and celebrated** for their **outstanding work**
- Serve as a representative to **promote the role** of exceptional school support employees and schools in the education system
- Develop and **amplify their voice** to advocate for the profession
- **Build relationships** with other exemplary support staff and schools throughout Louisiana
- The overall **Outstanding School Support Employee** of the Year may submit a **national application**, competing for the national title



Programs Timeline

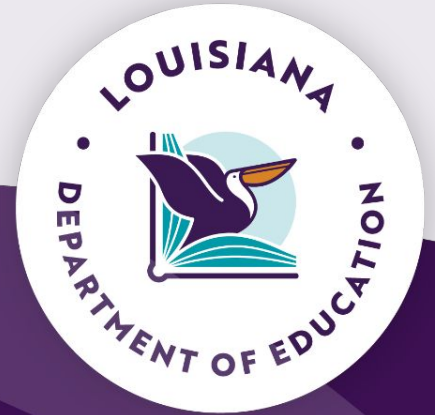


Timeline

Nominations Process	August 12 - September 12, 2025	Stakeholders nominate staff
Applications Process	September 16 - December 9, 2025	Applications Released-September 16 Applications Due-December 9
Honoree Announcements	TBD	State-level Honorees Announced
Recognition Event	April 15, 2026 (tentative)	Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting and reception



Nominations Process

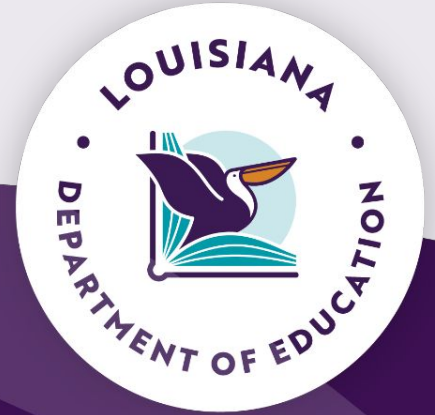


Nominations

- Part of the selection process for naming the **Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year**, the **School Health Service Provider of the Year**, and the **School Physical Activity Award** state-level honorees includes recommendations from various stakeholders.
- To assist with this process, a [nominations portal](#) was created and was open from August 12-September 12.
- Multiple nominations and self nominations were accepted.
- At the end of the nomination process, the nomination information was sent to local school systems for their consideration in their local-level processes.
- School systems don't have to use this information. Rather, it serves as an extra layer of information.



Application Process, Portals, and Tips



Application Process

The application process for the three awards programs:

- Application process opens- September 16, 2025
- Application process closes- December 9, 2025

State-level Online Application Portals:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)



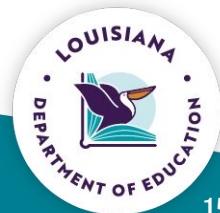
Application Tips

- Organize each response into clear paragraphs with smooth transitions.
- The first and last sentences should be impactful, aligned, and draw in the reader.
- Proofread for spelling, grammar, and clarity.
- Avoid general statements; show *how* the candidate meets each criterion.
- Use **detailed examples** that illustrate the candidate's impact.
- Include **evidence** where possible (e.g., “supported 150 students,” “reduced absences by 20%,” etc.).
- Describe **results and outcomes**, not just actions. (Example: “Her uniform closet restored student confidence and increased attendance.”)
- Show how the candidate's work contributes to **school success, student well-being, and community engagement**.



Application Tips

- Include quotes, testimonials, or data that demonstrate **stakeholder respect and support**.
- Emphasize **leadership qualities**, even in non-supervisory roles.
- Describe what makes the candidate stand out — their creativity, initiative, or leadership style.
- Highlight **innovative practices** or special contributions (e.g., creating a new program, mentoring students, leading a community project).
- Show evidence that their work serves as a **model for others**.
- Use the same tone, formatting, and level of detail throughout the application.
- Ensure that **examples** in different sections **complement rather than repeat** each other.
- Reinforce recurring themes (e.g., dedication, leadership, community service).
- Let the **personality** and passion of the nominee **shine** through.
- Write authentically — use language that feels genuine and heartfelt.
- Emphasize the **human impact** of their work — how they uplift, inspire, and serve others.



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year

The [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Award](#) program provides the opportunity to acknowledge those support employees who have rendered time and talents beyond the call of duty. Those candidates include:

- Clerical or custodial personnel
- Food service workers
- Maintenance staff
- Paraprofessionals
- School bus drivers
- Teacher aides
- Other employees who are not required to hold a teacher's certificate as a condition of employment.



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - School System Selections

- All school systems are encouraged to select up to **three support staff, one for elementary, middle, and high**, to move to the state process.
- School systems may utilize the state's materials or their own process to identify their support staff selections. For those who don't have a process in place, these selections may come from the nominations information.
- Once **school systems identify their system-level honorees**, those applications should be entered in the [online application portal](#).
- State-level applications are due by December 9, 2025.



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - Application Components

The state-level application includes:

- Basic Information
- Responses to the written reflection questions
- Supplemental materials may be submitted to accompany the written responses and application. (Optional)
- Letter(s) of recommendation (Optional)
- [Candidate consent form](#)
- [Student consent form](#) (Optional-Needed for each student included in the application, such as in video/photos/etc.)
- School System Approvals



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - Rubric Criteria

Competencies

1. Work Performance and Skill
2. School and Community Involvement
3. Leadership and Commitment
4. Stakeholder Support and Respect
5. Enhances Image and Success
6. Additional Exceptional Work

Scoring for

- Thoroughness
- Evidence



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - Rubric Competencies

An Excellent Response (9/10) will:

- Address the writing prompt in a clear, coherent, and organized way
- Provide consistent and compelling evidence (including evidence of the impact)
- Provide numerous relevant examples and details about the employee's unique characteristics and impactful practices regarding their role
- Be exemplary, significantly exceeding expectations, and serving as a model for others serving in this role



Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - Application Materials

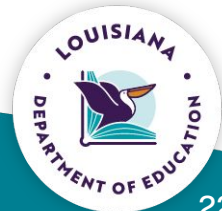
Materials

- [Application-Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)-**for viewing the application**
- [Online Application Portal-Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#) -**for submitting state-level applications**
- [Resource Center-Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [Rubric-Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [Timeline-Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)

Website

- Information and materials are available in the resources section.

Questions: excellenteducators@la.gov.



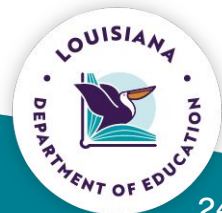
School Health Service Provider of the Year



School Health Service Provider of the Year

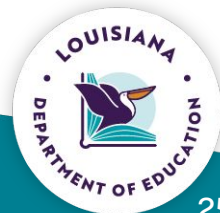
The [School Health Service Provider of the Year Award](#) provides the opportunity to acknowledge health care providers who have rendered time and talents beyond the call of duty. Those candidates include:

- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Speech-language pathologists, Audiologists
- Nurses, Nurse practitioners, Licensed practical nurses
- Licensed behavioral providers (LCSW,/LMSW, LPC, psychologists)



School Health Service Provider of the Year - School System Selections

- All school systems are encouraged to select up to **five school health service providers — one physical therapist, one occupational therapist, one nurse, one speech therapist, and one behavioral provider-** to submit applications to the state process.
- School systems may utilize the state's materials or their own process to identify their selections. For those who don't have a process in place, these selections may come from the nominations information.
- Once **school systems identify their system-level honorees**, those applications should be entered in the [online application portal](#).
- State-level applications are due by December 9, 2025.



School Health Service Provider of the Year- Application Components

The application includes:

- Basic information including name, email, and school system
- Applicant provider type (nurse, OT, PT, speech, etc.)
- License type (LMSW, LOTR, DPT, etc.)
- Responses to the six written reflection questions (500 maximum word count per response)
- Links to websites as demonstration of work may be included
- Link(s) to accomplishments that showcase work may be included



School Health Service Provider of the Year- Rubric Criteria

**Knowledge and
Expertise in Field**

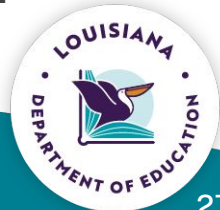
**Professional
Growth**

**Advocate for
Student Health**

**Health Program
Growth**

**School
Health
Provider**

**Represent their
Profession**



School Health Service Provider of the Year- Application Materials

Materials

- [Application-School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)- **for viewing the application**
- [Online Application Portal-School Health Service Provider of the Year](#) - **for submitting the application**
- [Resources Center-School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [Rubric-School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [Timeline-School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)

Website

- Information and materials are available in the resources section.

Questions: Contact healthyschools@la.gov.

School Physical Activity Award



School Physical Activity Award

The [School Physical Activity Award](#) recognizes elementary and high schools for outstanding physical activity programs available for their students.

The Department recognizes healthy and physically active students have a tendency to have:

- Better grades
- School attendance
- Cognitive performance
- Classroom behaviors



School Physical Activity Award Selection

- All school systems are encouraged nominate **schools that provide outstanding physical activity programming before, during, and after school that accommodate all students.**
- School systems may utilize the state's materials or their own process to identify schools. For those who don't have a process in place, these selections may come from the nominations information.
- Once school systems identify their system-level honorees, those applications should be entered in the [online application portal](#).
- State-level applications are due by December 9, 2025.



School Physical Activity Rubric Criteria

Competencies

1. Physical Education Classes
2. Physical Activity Before and After School
3. Physical Activity During School Hours
4. Family and Community Engagement Activities
5. Staff Involvement
6. Additional Exceptional Work

Scoring for

- Thoroughness
- Evidence



School Physical Activity - Rubric Competencies

An Excellent Response (9/10) for a candidate who:

- Address the writing prompt in a clear, coherent, and organized way
- Provide consistent and compelling evidence (including evidence of the impact)
- Provide numerous relevant examples and details about the school integrates a Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program
- Be exemplary, significantly exceeding expectations, and serving as a model for others serving in this role



School Physical Activity Award Application

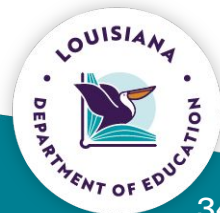
Materials

- [Application-School Physical Activity Award](#)- **for viewing the application**
- [Online Application Portal School Physical Activity Award](#)- **for submitting the state-level the application**
- [Resources Center-School Physical Activity Award](#)
- [Rubric-School Physical Activity Award](#)
- [Timeline-School Physical Activity Award](#)

Website

- Information and materials are available in the resources section.

Questions: Contact healthyschools@la.gov



Informational Webinars



School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards

Informational Overview Help Desk Call

Application Launch Call - for coordinators + supervisors

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 16 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97434846098>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 974 3484 6098

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, September 17 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92700350352>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 927 0035 0352

On this call, assistance will be provided regarding the application portals and submission.

[See all call dates and times here.](#)



School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards

Informational Overview Help Desk Call

HOP Application Process Review/Help Desk Call

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, November 5 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94631396881>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 946 3139 6881

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Monday, November 17 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92779348542>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 927 7934 8542

On this call, assistance will be provided regarding the application portals and submission.

[See all call dates and times here.](#)



School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards

Informational Overview Help Desk Call

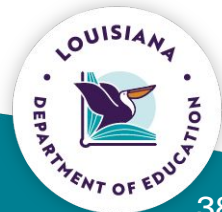
HOP Application Process Review/Help Desk Call

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Tuesday, December 2 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93204966371>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 932 0496 6371

HOP Application Help Desk Call

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Monday, December 8 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95700660725>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 957 0066 0725

On this call, assistance will be provided regarding the application portals and submission.
[See all call dates and times here.](#)



Resources and Questions



Awards Page Revisions

- All applications and materials may be accessed on the [Awards page](#).
- All award program information is organized by award category:
 - [Students](#)
 - [Staff/Educators](#)
 - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year
 - School Health Service Provider of the Year
 - [Schools and/or School System](#)
 - School Physical Activity Award



School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards

Comprehensive Resource Center Documents:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)

Examples of Exemplary Candidates:

- [Application Sample-Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [Application Sample- School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [Application Sample- School Physical Activity Award](#)



Contacts for Questions

- For questions, contact:
 - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year- excellenteducators@la.gov
 - School Health Service Provider of the Year and School Physical Activity Award - healthyschools@la.gov



**Thank you for your support of these
recognition programs.**

