

# Teacher and Principal of the Year

Application Process Overview



2024-2025 School Year

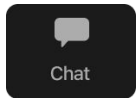
# Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact [LDOEcommunications@la.gov](mailto:LDOEcommunications@la.gov).



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Programs
- Meet our Partners
- Benefits of Participation and Examples of Excellence
- Public Interest Fellowship
- Gala
- State-level Application Materials and Timeline
- Local and State-level Processes
- Informational Calls and Next Steps
- Online Portals
- Resources and Questions



# Teacher and Principal of the Year Programs



# Louisiana's Teacher and Principal of the Year Programs

- 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](#) and the [Louisiana Association of Principals](#), honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.
- These award programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those educators who are making exceptional gains with students.
- Please join us in celebrating exemplary educators in your school system.



# Meet Our Partners



# Dream Teachers



- Visit the [Dream Teachers website](#) to learn more.



# Louisiana Association of Principals (LAP)



- Visit the [LAP website](#) to learn more.



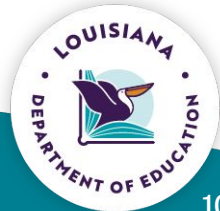


# Benefits of Participation



# Benefits to Schools/School Systems/Communities

- Provides schools and school systems with the opportunity to:
  - **Celebrate, honor and reward** outstanding education stakeholders for their hard work, dedication and success.
  - Call **state-wide attention** to the **exceptional work** taking place in their **school/school system/community**.
  - **Shine the light** on the **innovative work** and **leadership** of educators.
  - **Recruit and retain** your best educators.



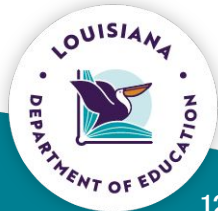
# Benefits to Candidates

- Provides the educator the opportunity to:
  - **Develop** and **amplify** their voice to **advocate** for the profession.
  - **Empower** participation in policy discussions to **improve** education for all children.
  - **Hone** their teaching/leadership **skills** through professional learning **opportunities**.
  - Serve as the **representative** to promote the education profession.
  - Build **relationships** with other exemplary educators throughout Louisiana.



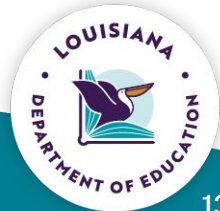
# 2025 Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship

- Launched in 2018, the fellowship allows recipients to spend the upcoming school year advocating for a key education initiative of their choosing.
- 2025 Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship recipient(s) will be chosen from the previous year's list of Teacher of the Year semifinalists and finalists.
- The fellowship is supported by a \$50,000 state stipend that is utilized to offset the costs incurred while conducting the work of the fellowship.
- [Learn more about the fellowship.](#)

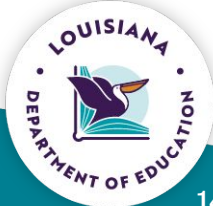
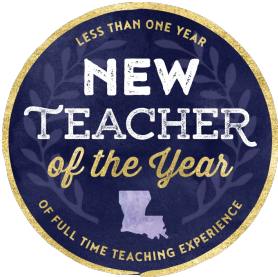
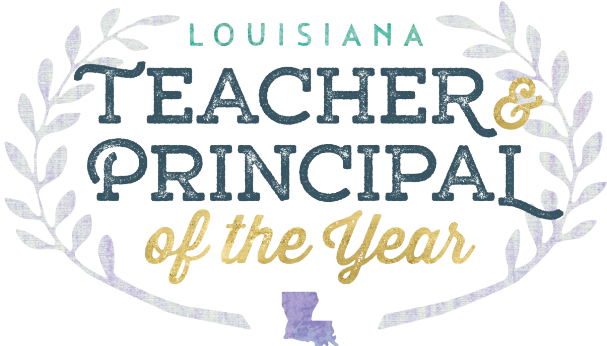
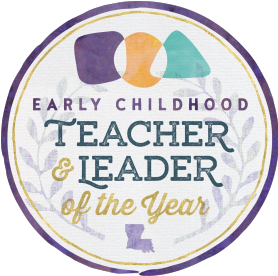


# 19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala

- On Saturday, July 26, 2025, the Department, in partnership with Dream Teachers, will host the 19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala at the World War II Museum in New Orleans.
- Several different award program honorees will be recognized and celebrated on this evening.
- During the event, the division-level and overall honorees will also be named.
- The Educator Excellence Awards Gala is Louisiana's most prestigious educational awards celebration of the year.
- Select your best candidates to be considered for this opportunity.



# Honorees at the Gala



# Meet the Current State Teacher and Principal of the year







**2025 OVERALL  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

*Elise Boutin*

**RAYNE HIGH SCHOOL  
ACADIA PARISH**



**Meet the Overall State Teacher of the Year**



**2025 OVERALL  
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

*Dr. Amanda  
Austin*

IBERVILLE MATH, SCIENCE, &  
ARTS ACADEMY EAST  
IBERVILLE PARISH



**Meet the Overall State Principal of the Year**

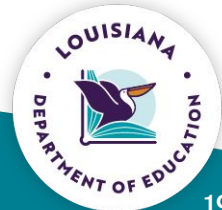
# Timeline



# Timeline

Nominations Portal	September 3 - September 30, 2024	Stakeholders nominate teachers/principals (optional/nominations shared with school systems for their consideration)
Applications Process	October 2024 - January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• October 1, 2024-applications released</li><li>• January 15, 2025-TPOY applications due in the online portal</li></ul>
Semifinalists Announced	March 18, 2025	48 semifinalists (24 teachers and 24 principals)
Finalists Announced	May TBD, 2025	18 honorees (9 teachers and 9 principals)
Interviews	June TBD, 2025	Finalist interviews
Gala	July 26, 2025	Celebrate all state-level honorees

## Teacher/Principal of the Year Timeline



# Application Process and Materials



# State-Level Criteria + Rubric

An exemplary candidate is one who:

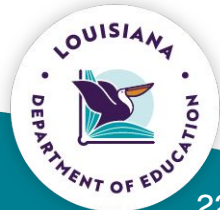
- Demonstrates **excellence and expertise** in the field, **guiding students** (and for principals, also teachers) of all backgrounds and abilities to **achieve success**.
- Demonstrates **leadership** and **innovation** in and outside of the school building walls, creating pathways for **students/teachers to excel**.
- **Builds collaborative relationships** with **colleagues, students, and families** to create a **school environment** that is respectful, inclusive, and **positively impacts student 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.

School systems are encouraged to select candidates who most closely match the criteria to participate in the state-level process.



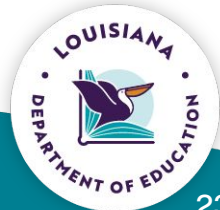
# Principal of the Year Application

- The Principal of the Year application consists of the following components:
  - Basic information, including a [bio](#) (written in third person) and social media quote
  - Résumé (limit: two pages)
  - Two recent years of student success data (SLTs or other data)
    - **Please ensure that the data submitted does not contain Student Personal Identifying Information (PII).**
  - Up to three letters of recommendation
  - Candidate consent form (teacher waiver)
  - Student consent form (one for each students in video/photos/etc.)
  - Responses to two written reflection questions and one video prompt
- Click link to view the [Principal of the Year Application](#).



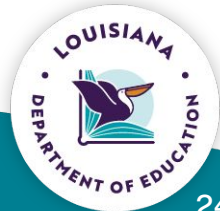
# Teacher of the Year Application

- The Teacher of the Year application consists of the following components:
  - Basic information, including a [bio](#) (written in third person) and social media quote
  - Résumé (limit: two pages)
  - Two recent years of student success data (SLTs or other data)
    - **Please ensure that the data submitted does not contain Student Personal Identifying Information (PII).**
  - Link to teaching video (YouTube link)
  - Lesson plan which corresponds to teaching video
  - Up to three letters of recommendation
  - Candidate consent form (teacher waiver)
  - Student consent form (one for each students in video/photos/etc.)
  - Responses to two written reflection questions and one video prompt
- Click link to view the [Teacher of the Year Application](#).



# Teacher/Principal of the Year Certification

- In the application portal, candidates are asked to upload their teaching/educational leadership certificate.
- Certificates may be accessed on the [Teach LA website](#).
- A candidate does not have to be certified to participate in the state-level Teacher and Principal of the Year process. However, a strong candidate is one who demonstrates a commitment to the education profession, as well as meets the [criteria](#).





# Teacher of the Year Video

- Teaching videos should not exceed 15 minutes and may be edited.
  - Teaching may take place in person, virtually, and/or be hybrid.
- Teaching video suggestion- Divide the video into three segments. Suggested segment time is listed as a guide only, as candidates may utilize the time as needed.
  1. Description of the lesson + passion statement (three minutes or less)
  2. Classroom lesson (ten minutes or less)
  3. Debrief of lesson (three minutes or less)
- In the state-level online application, videos must be submitted as a YouTube video link.



# Video Continued

- The state review team will be looking for evidence of the following:
  - Effective classroom management
  - High student/child engagement and innovative techniques that reach all students/children regardless of teaching platform
  - Utilization of high quality curricula and resources
  - Checking for understanding
- Click link to view the [Teacher Video Filming Guide](#).

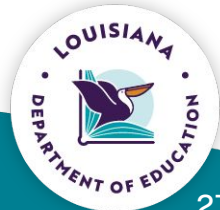


# Candidate and Student Consent Forms

- Teachers and principals must sign and submit the Department's Candidate Consent Forms in the state-level online application portal.
- Students featured in the state-level application, whether in video, film, audio, photography, recording, etc., must have their guardian sign and return the Department's Student Consent Form.
- If possible, the candidate (teacher or principal) should scan all Student Consent Forms into one PDF and submit that one document in the state-level online application portal. An alternative will be available for those who don't have access to a scanner.

Click the link to view the [Candidate Consent Form](#).

Click the link to view the [Student Consent Form](#).



# Sample Teacher and Principal of the Year Applications

- Click the links below to access the applications of the 2025 State Teacher and Principal of the Year:
  - [2025 State Teacher of the Year application, Elise Boutin](#)
  - [2025 State Principal of the Year application, Amanda Austin](#)



# School System-Level Process



# School System-Level Process

- All school systems are encouraged to select up to three overall Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees, one per division (elementary, middle, and high), to send to the state-process.
- All school systems are encouraged to submit at least one teacher and one principal to the state process.
- School systems may use the state's applications/materials or use their own process for to identify local-level honorees.
- Any school system with no local-level process may select and send their candidates directly to the state process.



# School System-Level Process Continued

- School systems determine:
  - The grades in the division levels. At the state-level, candidates serving multiple grade levels, such as a principal of a K-12 school, may select the multi-division option.
  - Who they include in their process, such as librarians, etc.
- Compass/Louisiana Educator/Louisiana Leader Rubric data (as available) is considered in the state-level competition for Teacher and Principal of the Year.
- School systems should ensure state-level candidates are demonstrating success with students.



# Informational Calls for Candidates and Stakeholders





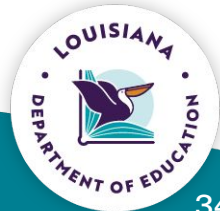
# Candidate and Stakeholder Calls

- At key phases throughout the process, informational/help desk calls will be held for coordinators, candidates and stakeholders.
  - Informational Calls - These calls will include information about the Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) application process, timeline, etc.
  - Help Desk Calls - These calls will focus on online application portal support.
- Information about these calls will be shared with the TPOY coordinators, as well as posted in various Department communications, such as in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter.

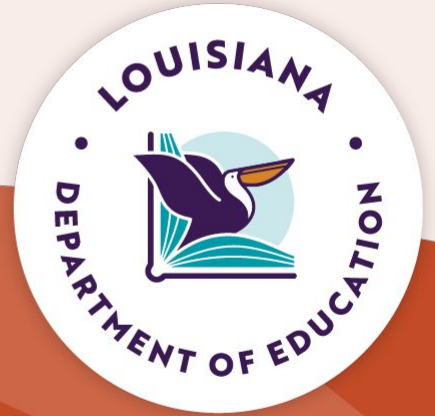


# Candidate and Stakeholder Calls

- Informational and Help Desk Calls
  - [Teacher and Principal of the Year](#)
- Anyone wanting to stay abreast of Teacher and Principal of the Year processes are invited to join these calls.



# Next Steps



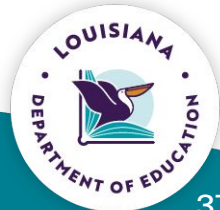
# Next Steps for Coordinators

- Review the applications and materials in the [Resources Library](#) found on the [Awards](#) page website.
- Move forward in selecting your system-level honorees and submit those candidates to the state-level process.
- FYI- All candidates that are submitted to the state-level process are up for consideration as an overall state-level honoree. Systems should ensure the candidates selected/submitted have been properly vetted and approved by the school system.



# Next Steps for Candidates

- Review the state-level applications and materials in the [Resources Library](#) found on the [Awards](#) page website.
- Candidates should prepare all application materials and save to their electronic files for future use and submission.
  - State-level candidates should join informational and help desk calls to get guidance for creating a strong state-level application.
- When the online portals open, state-level candidates should submit their application in the online portal.

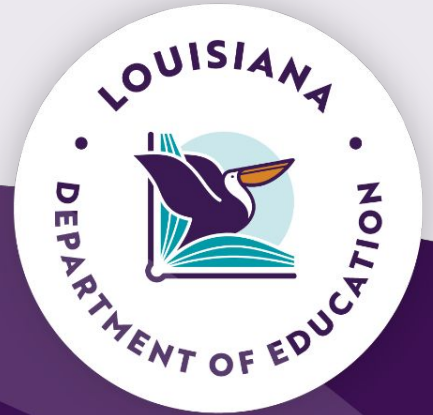


# Next Steps for Candidates

- Review the state-level applications and materials in the [Resources Library](#) found on the [Awards](#) page website.
- Candidates should prepare all application materials and save to their electronic files for future use and submission.
  - State-level candidates should join informational and help desk calls to get guidance for creating a strong state-level application.
- When the online portals open, state-level candidates should submit their application in the online portal.

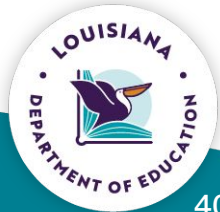


# Online Portals



# Teacher and Principal of the Year Online Portals

- Program coordinators will be notified when the online portals open.
- The portals will open in late Fall. Once open, the portal links will be included on the [Awards](#) page website.
- Each school system will be asked to verify the names of their state-level candidates.
- State-level candidates will add their application materials to the online portals by January 15, 2025.



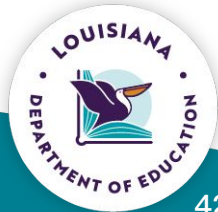


# Resources



# Resources

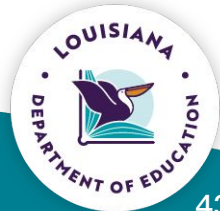
- Information about the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs may be found on the [Awards](#) page website.
- All application materials and the timeline may be accessed in the [Resource Library](#).
- See also the next slides which contains hyperlinks to all application materials.



# Teacher and Principal of the Year Materials

Please share the links below with your candidates for easy access to all application materials.

- [Teacher and Principal of the Year Timeline](#)
- [Teacher and Principal of the Year Rubric](#)
- [Teacher of the Year Application](#)
- [Teacher of the Year - Teaching Video Guide](#)
- [Principal of the Year Application](#)
- [Professional Bio Guidelines](#)
- [Candidate Consent Form](#)
- [Student Consent Form](#)
- [2025 State Teacher of the Year application, Elise Boutin](#)
- [2025 State Principal of the Year application, Amanda Austin](#)



# Additional Awards Opportunities



# Award Programs Information

- Information about all award programs offered at the Department can be found on the [Award Initiatives Overview](#) document.
- All stakeholders are encouraged to review and participate in these programs.
- For general questions, please contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov).



# Questions



# Questions

- Teacher/Principal of the Year: [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov)
- New Teacher of the Year: [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov)
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year: [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov)



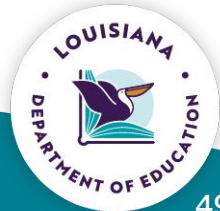
# Other Award Programs





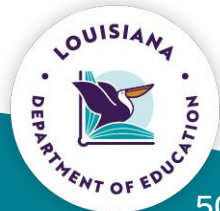
# Other LDOE Award Programs

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year
  - 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
- School Health Provider of the Year
  - Occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, and licensed behavioral health providers (LCSW/LMSW, LPC, and psychologists)
- School Physical Activity Award
  - Outstanding school physical activity program throughout the day that includes: physical education classes, physical activity before and after school, physical activity during school hours, family and community engagement activities, and staff involvement



# Other LDOE Award Programs

- Information and Assistance for Stakeholders
  - Informational Deck- [School Support, Health Staff, and Physical Activity Awards Process Informational Overview](#)
  - Please join these calls- [Informational Webinars for Stakeholders](#)
- Questions:
  - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year- [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov)
  - School Health Service Provider of the Year- [elizabeth.duncan@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.duncan@la.gov)
  - School Physical Activity Award - [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@la.gov)



# Thank You For Your Participation and Support for Teacher/Principal of the Year

