



# New Teacher of the Year

2025-2026

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. This document outlines the selection process and timeline for school systems.

## Selection Process and Timeline

Phase	Timeline	Description
Nominations Portal Open	September 2 - September 30, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <a href="#">nominations portal</a> is open from September 2 - September 30.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upon portal close, the nomination information is shared with school systems.</li></ul></li></ul>
Application Release	October 1, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Department releases the New Teacher of the Year application materials for the 2025-2026 school year.</li></ul>
Informational Overview Calls for Candidates and Stakeholders	October 2025 - January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To assist candidates, coordinators and stakeholders with the application process, <a href="#">informational calls and help desk calls</a> will be conducted. On these calls, information will be shared about the applications/timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See the <a href="#">Informational and Help Desk Zoom Calls</a> document for details.</li></ul></li></ul>
State-level Applications Due	January 21, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School systems may select up to three teachers (one elementary, one middle, one high) to move to the state competition.</li><li>By January 21, state candidates are to submit their applications in the New Teacher of the Year online application portal.</li></ul>
Finalists Announced	March 17, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Department names the 9 New Teacher of the Year finalists (3 elementary, 3 middle, 3 high)</li></ul>
Finalist Interviews TLS	May 26-28, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All finalists will receive a VIP ticket and will be recognized during the opening session.</li><li>Finalist interviews will be conducted on May 26, 2026.</li></ul>
Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala	July 25, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The 2027 Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists and finalists will be recognized and celebrated at the <i>20<sup>th</sup> Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala</i> that will be held in New Orleans..<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On this evening the division-level and overall honorees will be named.</li><li>This exciting event is co-sponsored by <a href="#">Dream Teachers</a>.</li></ul></li></ul>

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