



New Teacher of the Year

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.

Selection Process and Timeline

- **Nomination Portal Opens**
 - September 1 - 30, 2026
 - The nominations portal is open from September 1 to September 30.
 - After the portal closes, the Department shares the nomination information with school systems.
- **Application Release**
 - October 6, 2026
 - The Department releases New Teacher of the Year application materials for the 2026-2027 school year.
- **Informational Overview Calls for Candidates and Stakeholders**
 - October 2026 - January 2027
 - To assist candidates, coordinators and stakeholders with the application process, informational calls and help desk calls will be conducted. On these calls, information will be shared about the applications/timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals.
- **State-level Applications Due**
 - January 14, 2027
 - School systems may select up to three teachers (one for elementary, middle and high) to move to the state competition.
 - By January 14, state candidates are to submit their applications through the New Teacher of the Year candidates' online application portal.
- **Finalists Announced**
 - March TBD, 2027
 - The Department names the nine New Teacher of the Year Finalists
- **Teacher Leader Summit**
 - June 1-3, 2027
 - All finalists will receive a VIP ticket.

- **Finalist Interviews**
 - June TBD, 2027
- **Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala**
 - July 24, 2027
 - The 2028 New Teacher of the Year Finalists will be recognized and celebrated at the 21st Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, to be held in New Orleans.
 - On this evening, the division-level and overall honorees will be named.
 - This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

For questions regarding the New Teacher of the Year Award programs, please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov.