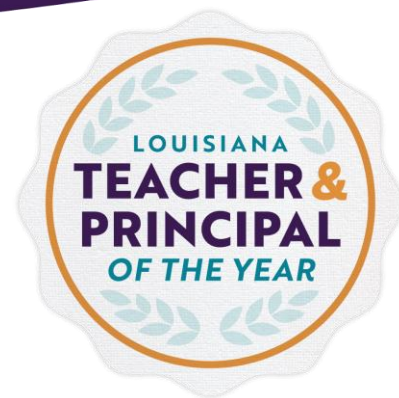




Teacher and Principal of the Year

2026-2027

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) and the [Louisiana Association of Principals](#), recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those teachers and leaders who are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success 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 Teacher and Principal 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 and three principals (one for elementary, middle and high) to move to the state competition.
 - By January 14, state candidates are to submit their applications through the Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates' online application portal.
- **Semifinalists Announced**
 - March TBD, 2027
 - The Department names the 48 Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists (24 teachers and 24 principals).
- **Finalists Announced**
 - May/June TBD, 2027

- The Department names the 18 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists (9 teachers and 9 principals).
- **Teacher Leader Summit**
 - June 1-3, 2027
 - All semifinalists and finalists will receive a VIP ticket.
- **Finalist Interviews**
 - June TBD, 2027
 - State selection committees (composed of community and education leaders) conduct virtual interviews with the 18 finalists.
- **Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala**
 - July 24, 2027
 - The 2028 Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists and 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 Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year Award programs, please contact excellenteducators@la.gov.