



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 10, 2025  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Principals, Staff Involved with Educator Recognition  
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services  
Deadline: December 5, 2025

## Nominations Sought for 2025-2026 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education strives to recognize educators who have gone above and beyond in their service to New Jersey's students. Now, more than ever before, is the time to celebrate New Jersey's outstanding educators. Therefore, every school in every district is encouraged to participate in the Governor's Educator of the Year program to honor the hardworking teachers and educational services professionals for their dedication to their students and the profession.

This program promotes a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride, and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators. Please remember to consider exceptional educators with diverse backgrounds to ensure that honorees represent the diversity of our state when selecting a Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year at your school.

### Instructions

- 1) Review and access all pertinent forms on the [Governor's Educator of the Year Program Materials webpage](#);
- 2) Adhere to the [timelines](#) and [eligibility criteria](#) by following the [school level instructions](#) to nominate and select one Teacher of the Year and one Educational Services Professional of the Year per school by November 28, 2025;
- 3) Register your Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year by first uploading your completed School Information Form and then completing the fields in the [GEOY online form](#) by December 5, 2025; and
- 4) Notify all nominated educators in your school by December 12, 2025.

All registered Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals of the Year will receive a state awards certificate from their County Office of Education.

### Contact Information

For questions, please contact the educator recognition team at [educatorrecognition@doe.nj.gov](mailto:educatorrecognition@doe.nj.gov). As always, the New Jersey Department of Education appreciates the continued collaboration in recognizing the great work of New Jersey's outstanding educators.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group