



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 9, 2026
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 4, 2026

Nominations Sought for 2026-2027 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.

Key Steps/Actions

- Review the [Governor's Educator of the Year Program Materials](#) before beginning to ensure you have the necessary information and understand the school-level selection and registration process;
- Follow the GEOY Timelines, Eligibility Criteria, and [School Level Instructions](#) to nominate and select one Teacher of the Year and one Educational Services Professional of the Year per school **by November 27, 2026**;
- Register your Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year in the [GEOY online registration system](#) by December 4, 2026. The School Information Form is now built directly into the online registration process and no longer needs to be completed separately and uploaded; and
- Notify all nominated educators in your school **by December 11, 2026**.

Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals of the Year registered by the December 4, 2026 deadline will receive a state award certificate from their County Office of Education.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the educator recognition team at 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.