

Educator of the Year

Application / Selection Information

How to write a competitive application:

- Nominees should reflect the best of their school / district and the diversity of Fresno County with work that is vital / impactful / innovative / dynamic / compassionate and whose contribution and commitment is unique to their field.
- Nominees are encouraged to share the rewards of their profession, their favorite parts of the job and what makes them most proud of the work they do.
- The application should be written primarily by the nominee reserving district support for proofing etc. and include concrete examples and/or data documenting the effectiveness of their work; in particular, its lasting, measurable impacts on students, staff and community.

Frequently asked questions:

Who is eligible for nomination?

Any school district classified employee, teacher or administrator.

What are the selection criteria?

The application criteria varies by category (see individual applications for details) but, in general, the selection committee will be looking for nominees that inspire them by their commitment, work ethic, expertise, outcomes, collaboration and generosity of time and talent for the betterment of students, staff and community.

How are the finalists and winners selected?

A pre-selection process narrows the field to four finalists in each category (at least one from a large, one from a medium and one from a small school district. The fourth finalist being from any sized district.) The final selection committee (comprised of past winners, retired educators, business professionals and community leaders), will then choose a winner following the site visits / panel interviews in a secret ballot vote.

When is the deadline for 2025 nominations?

The Letter of Intent is due February 6 and applications are due March 10.

Who can nominate a candidate?

Only Fresno County school district superintendents or designated liaisons can nominate. Each district conducts their own selection process with their own set of criteria choosing one candidate for each of the three categories to forward for consideration.

Can past nominees be renominated?

Yes.

Can a candidate receive an award if they plan to leave their position in the near future?

Yes.

How will nominators be updated on the status of their nomination?

All nominees not selected as a finalist will receive written correspondence mailed to their home address. Districts with finalists will receive a phone call from the county office so the district liaisons and superintendents may have the pleasure of delivering the good news to the candidate personally and helping to coordinate the site visits / panel interviews. *(Finalists will NOT be contacted directly by the selection committee. All communication will go through the district liaison leading up to the interviews.)*

What is the format for the site visits / panel interviews?

A subgroup of the final selection committee (four to seven members) will visit the work site or chosen location of each finalist for up to 90 minutes. The district will need to arrange for a quiet / isolated location that can accommodate each component of the visit. On each visit, there will be 30 minutes allotted for the interview with the finalist (this will be just the finalist and the committee members), there will be 30 minutes allotted for the panel discussion (this is the selection committee and up to 10 staff, students and community members chosen to speak on behalf of the candidate and the candidate themselves is not present) and 15 minutes for a brief walkthrough of the candidate's classroom / worksite or any points of pride. *(Each site visit component can be scheduled in any order that works best for the finalist / district.)*

When will the winners be announced?

At the gala awards ceremony in November.