

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) and the [Louisiana Association of Principals](#), recognizes and celebrates the 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 CRITERIA & EVIDENCE

Teachers and Principals of the Year are selected based on their success with students and, for principals, their work to support teachers. This [rubric](#) is used in the selection process.

SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE

PHASE	TIMELINE	DESCRIPTION
Nominations Portal Opens	October 11- 31, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New- Nominations portal opens on October 11 and closes on October 31. Teachers, parents, community members, etc., submit Teacher/Principal of the Year nominations/self-nominations. Upon portal close, the nominations information will be made available to districts/charters.
Application Release	October 11, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department releases 2018 Teacher/Principal of the Year application materials. 2018 Teacher/Principal of the Year coordinators participate in training webinar on October 13 or 14. Districts begin the district-level process.
State-level Applications Due	January 19, 2017 State-level candidate online applications are due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Districts/LEAs select up to three overall Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists, one per division (elementary, middle and high), to move on to the state competition. By Thursday, January 19, 2017 all candidate applications must be submitted online.
Semi-Finals	April 2017 Semi-finalists will be announced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department identifies 48 semi-finalists (24 teachers and 24 principals) and notifies them in early April. State team conducts semi-finalist level competition in April.
Finalists	May 2017 Finalists will be announced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department selects the top 18 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists (9 teachers and 9 principals) and notifies them in May.
State Selection	June 2017 In person interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State selection committees (composed of community and education leaders) interview the 18 finalists and select the state-level Teacher and Principal of the Year winners.
Recognition	Friday, July 28, 2017 Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honorees recognized and celebrated and state-level winners named.