

Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

February 1, 2025

(X) Action Required
Nominations Due: March 2, 2025
Applications Due: April 2, 2025
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 004-25 EDUCATOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School Business Managers
School District Communications Staff
Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Educational Service District Teacher Award Coordinators
Educational Associations
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Regional Educators of the Year Nominations

CONTACT: Susan Lathrop, Assistant Superintendent Educator Growth and Development
564-999-3894, susan.lathrop@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is excited to share that nominations for the Regional Educator of the Year are now open. Anyone can nominate a school official by filling out the [Regional Educator of the Year Nomination form](#). We encourage you to include a written explanation detailing why you believe this person deserves the nomination.

Once nominated, regional candidates will be invited to fill out an application. This application requires written essays, letters of support, and endorsements from their school and district. The Educational Service Districts (ESD), where the nominee works, will review all completed applications. Each ESD will select one regional honoree from both the Teacher and Classified Employee nominations to move forward to the state awards. The selection process is based on specific criteria for each award, which you can find on the [Teacher of the Year](#) and [Classified School Employee of the Year](#) web pages.

Make sure to submit your nominations by March 2nd. Nominees will need to complete their applications by April 2nd to be eligible for consideration by their ESD for the regional honor.

Eligibility

For Teacher of the Year, any public-school teacher is eligible if –

- They teach full-time and spend at least 50% of their time in a classroom setting with students.
- They plan to continue teaching through the 2025–26 school year.
- They have not previously been recognized as a State or Regional Teacher of the Year in Washington.

For Classified School Employee of the Year, any public-school classified staff is eligible if –

- They are considered a classified employee, and they are **not working in a management position**.
- They plan to continue working in education through the 2025–26 school year.
- They have not previously been recognized as a State or Regional Classified School Employee of the Year in Washington.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Susan Lathrop, Assistant Superintendent Educator Growth and Development, at 564-999-3894 or email susan.lathrop@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Susan Lathrop
Assistant Superintendent
Educator Growth and Development

CR: hnp

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