District 300 Foundation
Distinguished Educator of the Year Award
2026/2027

Purpose of the Award

The District 300 Foundation for Educational Excellence seeks to enhance and extend learning opportunities for all District 300 students. By honoring a District 300 educator who best meets the award criteria, it is the hope that the excellence that exists in many of our classrooms will be advanced.

Nomination Process

Each school in District 300 is encouraged to biennially establish a nominating committee of no less than three certified staff members to select an exemplary educator most deserving of the nomination.

Applications can be found on the Foundation website www.d300foundation.org. The nominating committee will need to complete the online application by **Friday, December 18, 2026.** Late submissions will not be accepted. Questions regarding the process should be directed to Monica Giacomino, Foundation Assistant, at: monica.giacomino.int@d300.3org

Nominee Qualifications

- The educator nominee must have at least 3 years of District 300 teaching experience at the time the nomination is made, and be at least 5 years from anticipated retirement.
- The educator nominee demonstrates through daily practice, an understanding of the needs of learners and what it takes to bring them to high levels of achievement.
- The educator nominee implements innovative techniques of instruction and motivation of learners that maximize student achievement.
- By example, the educator nominee should inspire colleagues to employ innovative techniques and best practices, and a willingness to share their expertise.
- The following positions are considered for educator nominations:
    - Classroom teachers, instructional coaches, interventionists, digital literacy coaches, psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, speech and language, reading/literacy specialists, media specialists.

Selection Process

The Selection Committee will consist of no less than three District 300 certified retirees and at least one member of the Board of Trustees of the District 300 Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Presentation

All Nominees will be honored at the annual awards ceremony on Wednesday April 14, 2027. The Foundation will then announce who has been selected as the 2027 D300 Foundation for Educational Excellence Distinguished Educator of the Year.

** A preview of the questions appear on the next page **

Application preview:

DO NOT include the nominee's name or school in your answers.
Applications are judged blindly.

PLEASE read ALL questions prior to completing to avoid repeating information.

Each question should be answered in 500 words or less.

Tip - Write about the great things this nominee has done. Engage the reader. WHAT makes them WANT to be in this educator's classroom.

1. Describe the innovative techniques of instruction that the nominee employs to enhance the learning environment. Give clear, concise examples that convey the classroom activities and atmosphere.(30pts)

2. Illustrate how the nominee utilizes a variety of strategies to assist the needs of all learners in order to bring them to a higher level of achievement.(25pts)

3. Provide examples that depict how the nominee inspires and collaborates with colleagues to employ innovative techniques.(20pts)

4. Please share any additional information and /or activities that illustrate the nominee's performance as an exemplary educator. (May include activities beyond a typical school day) (15pts)

Other information (10pts)
Nominee name, base school, position, years with District 300, subjects taught, Colleges/Universities attended, past awards, professional organizations/societies nominee is a member of.

All nominations must be completed using the Google form found on the Foundation's website.