

NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence

Federal Education Association Nomination Packet

This nomination packet is for FEA members seeking consideration as the Federal Education Association's nominee for the NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence. While FEA may submit one nominee to NEA, members are encouraged to submit complete packets for internal review.

Award Criteria Overview

National applications are evaluated using the following five criteria:

1. Professional Practice (15 points)
Demonstrates expertise, creativity, and innovation in providing rich learning opportunities for students. Uses a variety of strategies to address different learning styles and needs.
2. Advocacy for the Profession (15 points)
Is an active NEA member who has assumed leadership roles and advocates for students, educators, and public education.
3. Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (10 points)
Creates a safe, supportive learning environment and explicitly addresses diverse values, cultures, and experiences.
4. Family and Community Engagement (5 points)
Intentionally engages families and the broader community to support student learning and success.
5. Leadership in Professional Development (5 points)
Engages in ongoing professional growth and shares learning with colleagues in ways that positively impact students and the community.

Required Nomination Materials

A complete nomination packet must include all five of the components below.

1. Nomination Letter

Submitted by: State, federal, direct affiliate president, or local president

Purpose: Explain why the nominee deserves national recognition

Requirements: - Maximum 3 pages - Double-spaced - 12-point font or larger - If written by a local president, include an additional one-sentence certification from the state or federal president

2. Resume

Purpose: Provide a factual overview of the nominee's career

Include: - Positions held - Degrees earned - Honors and awards - Relevant professional or personal achievements

Requirements: - Maximum 2 pages

3. Awardee Statement (Written by the Nominee)

Format: First-person narrative

Length: No more than 7 pages, single-spaced, 12-point font

Applicants are strongly encouraged to use headings tied to the criteria below.

A. Professional Practice

- How have you grown as an educator over your career?
- What strategies or methods do you use to support student learning and success?
- Share a specific story demonstrating your impact on students.

B. Advocacy for the Profession

- How has your involvement in NEA or its affiliates contributed to your success?
- How do you advocate for public education and the profession?
- How would you encourage a colleague to become more active?
- Include examples and links to speaking engagements if available.

C. Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

- How do you address DEIJ in your interactions with students?
- What outcomes have resulted from these efforts?
- How does this commitment shape your work?

D. Family and Community Engagement

- How do you intentionally engage families and community members?
- How do these relationships support student success?

E. Leadership in Professional Development

- What professional learning experiences have most influenced your practice?
- How do you share learning with colleagues?
- What impact has your growth had on students, your institution, or the community?

4. Endorsement Letters

Who may submit: - Local affiliate president - Colleagues - Current or former students - Parents or community members

Requirements: - Up to 3 letters - Maximum 2 pages per letter - Double-spacing preferred - Signed if possible - Salutation addressed to the NEA Foundation National Selection Panel

5. Digital Photo

Requirements: - JPEG format - Minimum 72 pixels per inch - At least 400KB

Consent: By submitting a photo and application, the nominee consents to unlimited use of their image and submitted materials by the NEA Foundation and/or NEA for publicity and communications purposes. No compensation will be provided for this use.

Submission Notes

- All materials must be complete and submitted together to be considered.
- Incomplete or improperly formatted packets may not be reviewed.
- FEA will review all submissions and select one nominee to advance to NEA.

For questions about this packet or submission requirements, please contact FEA at feadmin@nea.org.