



The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD) is pleased to launch the sixth year (school year 2025-2026) of our Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award. Early childhood teachers have one of the most important jobs in the world- providing quality education to our state's youngest learners and partnering with their families. Please use [this form](#) (or scan the QR code below) to nominate an early childhood teacher you know whose amazing work you'd like to recognize.

***New THIS year:** Nominees will be notified of their nomination and invited to apply throughout the nomination window: **March 2, 2026-April 27, 2026. Nominate now to allow teachers time to complete their application before the end of the school year.** Self nominations are accepted and encouraged. Celebrate yourself or a colleague today!

Scan this QR code through your phone to nominate an early educator no later than April 27, 2026:



TIMELINE:

- March 2, 2026: Nominations and Applications Open: ***Nominees will be notified of their nomination and invited to apply as soon as nominations are received. So nominate early!***
- April 27, 2026: Last day to nominate for 2025-26 school year
- May 10, 2026: Last day to submit applications (if you haven't already done so)
- May 11-22, 2026: Final Application Review Period
- June 1-12, 2026: Interviews
- September: Winners & Finalists announced

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Lead teachers of infant, toddler, and pre-K students in both general education and special education programs. These early learning programs include (but are not limited to): child care, licensed family child care providers, Head Start, Early Head Start, home visitors and early intervention, private school, charter school, district pre-K (i.e. Nevada Ready! State Pre K, ECSE, Title I, etc.), and itinerant/inclusion model.

***Teachers who were previously nominated/applied, but not selected as award recipients, are eligible to participate again each year.

Please contact Anna Severens at aseverens@doe.nv.gov with any questions.

*If you missed the 4/27/26 deadline, scan this QR Code to nominate an Early Educator at any time.

