

To: Superintendent Addressed

From: Rodney Watson, PhD

Date: February 4, 2025

Re: Teacher of the Year Nomination Guidelines

Each year, Region 4 honors one elementary and one secondary teacher as Teachers of the Year. The awards are sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). The 2025 Texas Teacher of the Year application is expected to be available on April 1, 2025, on the [TASA](#) Website.

Fees for participating districts are as follows: \$350 for K–12 and \$200 for K–8 and K–6 districts. As nomination forms are received, an invoice for payment will be generated and sent to the district.

Please read the following information for important program details.

- Each district may nominate **two** teachers—one elementary and one secondary. (In most cases, elementary is defined as Early Childhood/Prekindergarten–Grade 5, and secondary is defined as Grades 6–12.) Charter operators/districts with multiple campuses (whether they are all in one ESC region or in multiple) should select one elementary teacher and one secondary teacher for submission to the regional competition. A teacher nominated by a charter operator should enter the number of the Region ESC where their campus is located into the online application. Their application will be considered along with all other applications within that region. As such, a charter operator may have an elementary teacher submitting an application to one region and a secondary teacher submitting an application to another region.
- Regional selection is tentatively scheduled to take place at the end of June or early July. Interviews of the top five (5) elementary and top five (5) secondary nominees will take place on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**. *Please be sure district nominees mark this date on their calendars.*
- Region 4 2026 Teachers of the Year is scheduled to be announced at the annual Region 4 Teachers of the Year Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at the Marriott Marquis Houston from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Region 4 welcomes this opportunity to honor teaching excellence. Although there are many Teachers of the Year programs sponsored by various organizations, the Region 4 Teachers of the Year event is part of the TASA Texas Teacher of the Year program and is the initial step in the National Teacher of the Year selection process. In this regard,

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please be advised of the following criteria listed on the TASA website, as this must be used in the selection of the Region 4 Teachers of the Year.

A candidate for National Teacher of the Year should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teacher in any state-approved or accredited school, Prekindergarten through Grade 12, who is planning to continue in an active teaching status (supervisory and administrative responsibilities should be of secondary consideration).

Last year, 95 teachers from 48 Region 4 school districts participated in the Region 4 Teachers of the Year program. We encourage you to continue to recognize outstanding educators in your district through this program. If you have not participated in the past, we hope that you will consider doing so this year. For questions, please contact Stephanie Noriega at 713.744.6851 or stephanie.noriega@esc4.net.

SN/ag