 **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MEDIA CONTACT**:

Sept. 20, 2017 Jill Reynolds, H-E-B, 512-646-8548

**H-E-B accepting nominations for the 2018**

**Excellence in Education Awards**

***Nominations can be submitted online through Oct. 22, 2017***

(SAN ANTONIO) — H-E-B is now [accepting nominations](https://www.heb.com/static-page/article-template/excellence-in-education-nomination-application) for educators to apply for the 2018 [H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards](https://www.heb.com/static-page/excellence-in-education-awards). Each year, these awards highlight a variety of educators who go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of their students and communities.

Last year, community members across the state of Texas nominated over 14,000 outstanding educators to encourage them to apply for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. Public school teachers, principals, school districts, school boards and private or public early childhood education facilities are all eligible to be nominated. Nominees will be invited to complete an [online application](https://www.heb.com/static-page/excellence-in-education-awards), which asks for written responses about education philosophy, learning experiences and insights on key issues facing educators in Texas today.

After completing the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards application, educators and districts are eligible to win cash prizes and grants ranging from $5,000 to $100,000. Nominations for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are being accepted online through Oct. 22, 2017 and educators can submit applications until Dec. 8, 2017.

In 2017, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards awarded more than $700,000 in cash prizes, gift cards and grants to finalists and winners. Since its inception in 2002, the program has awarded over $9.3 million to Texas educators, schools and districts.

Nominations are not required for participation. Educators may visit [HEB.com/static-page/Excellence-in-Education-Awards](https://www.heb.com/static-page/excellence-in-education-awards) to complete an application. For additional updates, follow the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program on Facebook at [Facebook.com/HEBExcellenceinEducationAwards](https://www.facebook.com/HEBExcellenceinEducationAwards/).

**About the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards**

H-E-B launched the Excellence in Education Awards program in cooperation with the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2002 as a positive way to support public education in Texas. It has become the largest monetary program for educators in the state, spotlighting best practices and celebrating the passion and creativity of Texas educators.

**H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Program Process**

1. H-E-B asks customers, Partners (employees) and community members to nominate teachers, principals, districts, early childhood facilities and school boards in Texas. Each nominee is sent an invitation to complete an application online and is asked about their professional experiences, educational philosophies and achievements both in and out of the classroom.
2. A team of judges reviews the applications, narrowing the field to semi-finalists. From that pool, five regional judging panels comprised of former winners, administrators, and university and community leaders not affiliated with H-E-B select 40 teacher and principal finalists. Finalists and their schools receive a cash prize of $1,000 to $2,500, depending on category.
3. Three separate panels select eight school districts and five early childhood facilities as finalists, awarding $2,500 to $5,000 in cash prizes. Up to five school boards may also be recognized, and awarded $5,000 towards the district they serve. Additionally, one or more school boards may receive a special judge’s award totaling up to $25,000. Site visits are conducted to determine winners.
4. Teacher and principal finalists are invited to compete on a statewide level for larger cash prizes totaling more than $400,000. A statewide panel of judges, not affiliated with H-E-B, conducts a personal interview with each finalist to select winners.
5. Eight winners — two principals and six teachers — are announced along with two school districts, one large and one small, a public school board and an early childhood facility, at a celebratory dinner.
6. Each winning principal—one elementary school and one high school—receives $10,000 in cash for themselves and a $25,000 grant for their schools. The winning large school district receives a $100,000 cash prize and the winning small school district receives $50,000. The winning early childhood facility receives $25,000 and a school board could be awarded up to $25,000.
7. The six winning teachers include one elementary and one secondary teacher in each of three categories:

**The Rising Star Award** — honors exceptionally promising teachers with less than 10 years of experience. These winners will each receive a $5,000 check for themselves and a $5,000 grant for their schools.

**The Leadership Award** — honors teachers with 10 to 20 years in the classroom. These winners will each receive a $10,000 check for themselves and a $10,000 grant for their schools.

**The Lifetime Achievement Award** — salutes teachers with more than 20 years of experience. These teachers will each receive $25,000 in cash for themselves and a $25,000 grant for their schools.

**About H-E-B**

H-E-B, with sales of more than $23 billion, operates more than 380 stores in Texas and Mexico. Known for its innovation and community service, H-E-B celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2015. Recognized for its fresh food, quality products, convenient services, and a commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability, H-E-B strives to provide the best customer experience at everyday low prices. Based in San Antonio, H-E-B employs more than 100,000 Partners in Texas and Mexico and serves millions of customers in more than 300 communities. For more information, visit [heb.com](https://www.heb.com/).

###