



2026-2027 TASSP State Principal of the Year Application

The TASSP Principal of the Year program annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. These principals are acknowledged by their peers for the exemplary contributions they have made to the profession.

The program honors school principals who have demonstrated excellence in the areas addressed by the listed selection criteria below.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Candidate must currently be an active principal who has demonstrated outstanding leadership.
- Candidate must notify TASSP immediately of any change in his or her status as a principal. Failure to notify TASSP of change of status could jeopardize a candidate's eligibility for the award.
- Candidate must be an active principal, headmaster, or leader of a virtual, public, or private middle level or high school in Texas. Middle level and high schools are defined as those containing some portion of grades 6 through 12.
- Candidate must have served as a principal at one or more middle level or high schools for three or more consecutive school years.
- Candidate must complete the 2026-2027 TASSP State Principal of the Year application.
- Candidate must be a member of TASSP.
- Previous Texas Principal of the Year winners are ineligible to reapply for the award.

NOTE: Download this application to your computer, open that copy, complete and save it for your records.

Since you have received Region POY recognition, you may be eligible to apply for state/national recognition. If interested, upload your application and all attachments **to our website at this link:** https://tassp.memberclicks.net/2027_statepoy_apoy
Certification should be included in upload. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS August 20, 2026.**

This application will then be forwarded to the Principal Image Committee to determine finalists for the High School and Middle Level Texas Principal of the Year.

TASSP Principal of the Year Scoring Sample Rubric

To Applicant: This is the scoring rubric that judges will use to evaluate responses in your application.

CATEGORY 1: Personal Excellence	
Selection Criteria	Rating
Models continuous professional growth	
Interacts with others professionally and tactfully	
Communicates effectively in speaking and writing	
Models values, beliefs, and attitudes that encourage others to higher levels of performance	
Demonstrates commitment to the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals through on-going membership and active participation in TASSP programs; recognizes student achievement and voice by active membership in one or more of the following: Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC), Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE), National Honor Society (NHS), National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), and/or National Association of Student Councils (NASC).	
TOTAL Personal Excellence (Max of 15)	

CATEGORY 2: Collaborative Leadership	
Selection Criteria	Rating
Involves teachers, staff members, parents, students, and the community in creating and fostering a shared vision for the school	
Leads collaboratively to promote ownership among staff, students, parents, and community members for school efforts and outcomes	
Creates a culture of collaboration in which staff members work together as a professional learning community to promote student learning	
Teaches, coaches, and supports the development of potential and current school leaders	
Utilizes available technology tools for school management, operation, instruction and assessment, fostering collaboration and communication to effectively address issues in the school community and meet the unique learning needs of each student.	
TOTAL Collaborative Leadership (Max of 15)	

CATEGORY 3: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	
Selection Criteria	Rating
Improves teaching, learning, and assessment by implementing practices, programs, and improvement efforts on the basis of multiple sources of data	
Leads efforts in curriculum alignment and identification of essential learnings at each level	
Observes, supervises, and evaluates teachers and instructional programs to maximize the learning opportunities for every teacher and for each student	
Demonstrates knowledge of learning, teaching, assessment practices, research, and programs that maximize student performance	
Facilitates in developing and maintaining co-curricular programs that complement the curriculum while fostering students' academic and social success	
Ensures that each student has the best possible opportunity of realizing success by providing a personalized plan that evaluates individual learner needs in relation to learning time, setting, methods, and course sequence	
Provides enrichment and support for both students and teachers in meeting high standards.	
TOTAL Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (Max of 21)	

CATEGORY 4: Personalization	
Selection Criteria	Rating
Establishes and maintains a school environment that reflects high expectations for students and staff	
Creates a school climate that is warm, inviting, safe, and secure	
Organizes the school so that all social, economic, and racial/ethnic groups have equal access to all school programs and provides the support needed for student success	
Creates structures that promote positive relationships between adults and students and ensures that each student is well-known by at least one staff member	
Acknowledges the accomplishments of students, teachers, and school community members.	
TOTAL Personalization (Max of 15)	

TOTAL SCORE: _____
(Max of 66)

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First Name			
Middle Name			
Last Name			
Total years as a principal			
Total years as a school administrator (Including central office, etc.)			
Total years as a TASSP member			
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION			
Home Address			
City / State / Zip			
Preferred Email address			
Cell Phone			
ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL			
Select one:	Middle School	High School	
School Name			
Street Address			
City / State / Zip			
School Phone			
School Website			
Does your school have a chapter/affiliation with the following? If yes, indicate total # of years.			
Texas Association of Student Councils	#	National Association of Student Councils	#
Texas Association of Future Educators	#	NHS or NJHS	#

SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE: (List address/links for any that apply.)			
Facebook:		X (Twitter) @	
YouTube		SchoolTube Channel	
Other			
ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT			
School District Name			
School District Address			
City / State / Zip			
School District Phone		School District Website	
Superintendent Name		Assistant to Superintendent Name	
Superintendent Email		Assistant to Superintendent Email	
SCHOOL PROFILE			
Grades		Total Student Enrollment	
Number of Assistant School Administrators		Number of Teachers	
My School is (check one): ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural			
	% of students in school classified as special education students		% of students classified as ELL or limited-English proficiency
	% students on free/reduced price lunches		% school attendance
	% promotion rate (Middle School)		% graduation rate (High School)
Approximate gender composition in your school		% males:	% females:

Approximate racial composition of the students in your school			
	% American Indian or Alaska Native		% Asian
	% Black or African American		% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
	% White		% Other
Approximate ethnic composition of the students in your school			
	% Hispanic or Latino		% Not Hispanic or Latino

Complete the table utilizing state assessment data. Please report data by applicable school subgroups.

ALL GRADES READING / ELA	% Approaches/Meets/Masters	% Approaches/Meets/Masters	% Approaches/Meets/Masters
	SY 2023-24	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26
List major ethnic or racial subgroups:			
Students with disabilities			
ELL/Limited English proficiency			
Economically disadvantaged			

Complete the table utilizing state assessment data. Please report data by applicable school subgroups.

ALL GRADES MATHEMATICS	% Approaches/Meets/Masters	% Approaches/Meets/Masters	% Approaches/Meets/Masters
	SY 2023-24	SY 2024-25	SY 2025-26
List major ethnic or racial subgroups:			
Students with disabilities			
ELL/Limited English proficiency			
Economically disadvantaged			

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Which of the following TASSP offerings have you participated in the last three years? Please indicate the years below:

Summer Workshop	
Fundamental Five	
Making Middle School Matter	
Service on TASSP Committee(s)	
Other TASSP event/offering	
NASSP Conference	
Other NASSP event/offering	

For each of the following, please list a maximum of five examples most pertinent and relevant to your professional growth.

INSTITUTION	DEGREE	DATE EARNED
MEMBERSHIPS AND OFFICES HELD IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Specify)	START DATE	END DATE
MEMBERSHIPS, OFFICES, AND ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY	START DATE	END DATE
AWARDS AND HONORS	DATE EARNED	
PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	DATE OCCURRED	
OTHER SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION	START DATE	END DATE

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

INTRODUCTION

As a principal, your school's success begins and ends with you. No matter what kind of school you lead, as a school leader, we all start with a common purpose – preparing each child for success in a global community.

For each response, you are limited to 400 words. Please include strategies, data, and examples as appropriate.

1. How have you shaped your school's culture to foster well-being and safety, so each student and adult learns and interacts productively?

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE – Question 2.

2. How have you promoted equity so that each person is known and valued and receives an individualized, high-quality education to succeed?

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE – Question 3.

3. How have you embedded the needs of each student as a guiding value to inform organizational decision-making?

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation, and you may choose from three of the following:

Student	Name:
Parent / Community Member / Business Leader	Name:
Teacher	Name:
Administrator / Superintendent	Name:

Each letter must be limited to one 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper (printed on one side only), with at least 1" margins and a font size no smaller than 11 points. Letters that exceed one page will not be considered. TASSP will not release letters of recommendation without express authorization from authors of letters.

CANDIDATES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERMS

I have read and understand the rules outlined in this application and certify that the essay responses submitted are my own work. I agree to abide by these rules, and I grant TASSP the authority, after adequate notification, to publish in part or whole any information contained in this application and to use my name and likeness for publicity and other promotional purposes related to the program.

Principal's Signature:	Date:
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CERTIFICATION FORM

(Please print for Superintendent's signature)

The purpose of this form is to advise the principal's superintendent that _____ (candidate's name) has been nominated and is applying for the Texas Principal of the Year award. It also indicates that the superintendent understands the following obligations, opportunities, and responsibilities inherent in acceptance of the award.

- The principals of the year will attend and participate in the TASSP Summer Workshop and Awards Dinner in June.
- Texas principals of the year may receive limited requests to represent TASSP at events and/or serve on committees.
- Continued membership in TASSP is required, at least through June 2027.
- Finalists for the Texas Principal of the Year will travel to Austin, TX for interviews in October 2026. Finalists will be reimbursed for mileage/airfare and one night's hotel stay.

My signature certifies that I endorse this candidate and acknowledge the nomination of competing for the Texas Principal of the Year award.

Superintendent's Signature:	Date:
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