



2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year Application - Part A

Program administered by
Nebraska Department of Education

Program sponsored by

Nebraska State Board of Education

BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska

Nebraska Association of School Boards

Nebraska Council of School Administrators

Nebraska State Education Association

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)

SMART Technologies

University of Nebraska

Dillard's Gateway Mall Lincoln

Nebraska Corn Board

Community Partner

KOLN/KGIN (Channel 10/11)

Timeline

April 2020	Nomination forms and Application Part A and B packets available. Part A - Candidate information, professional memberships, professional preparation and experience, authorizations, resume, letters of recommendation, and essay questions. Part B - A written lesson plan, YouTube classroom video (postponed for 2021) , and public speaking video.
July 15, 2020	Deadline for receipt of Application - Part A and B packets. Submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) . Application Part A and Part B packets that are incomplete or do not comply with the format will be disqualified.
July 22, 2020	Application - Part A and B packets scored and finalists selected.
July 24, 2020	Announcement of Finalists.
August 10, 2020	Finalists interviewed in Lincoln, Nebraska.
August 18-28, 2020	2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year Announced. Press release of 2021 finalists and Nebraska Teacher of the Year.
November 12, 2020	Awards Recognition Event. Nebraska Teacher of the Year state obligations begin November 13, 2020. National Teacher of the Year obligations begin January 2021.

Part A - Eligibility Criteria

The **Nebraska Awards of Excellence Program**, which features selection of the **Nebraska Teacher of the Year**, serves to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year candidate has the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

- Is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence;
- Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success;
- Deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large;
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning; and,
- Expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way.

Teachers who have been nominated in prior years but did not achieve at least an Award of Excellence ranking may be nominated.

Teachers who have received recognition as Nebraska Teacher of the Year or who have been recognized as an Award of Excellence Recipient in the previous three years are not eligible for nomination.



Application Information

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972); or handicap (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) in educational programs of activities receiving federal assistance. Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the Nebraska Department of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.

Selection and Interview Process

- The **Nebraska Application Review Panel** examines all Part A and Part B Applications submitted and selects **up to five** finalists (**Award of Excellence Teachers**).
- Award of Excellence recipients will be in the running for selection of 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.
- Award of Excellence recipients will be interviewed to determine the 2021 **Nebraska Teacher of the Year** and will be eligible for consideration as the National Teacher of the Year.
- Only completed applications will be considered. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year will serve as a representative at National Teacher of the Year events in 2021.

Background Information

The National Teacher of the Year Program originated in 1952 and continues to recognize teachers on the local, state, and national levels. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has been in place since 1972 and affords opportunity to honor dedicated teachers for excellence in the classroom. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding Nebraska certified teachers who plan to continue in an active teacher status in any state-approved or accredited school pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Supervisory and administrative responsibilities are secondary considerations. The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

In order to encourage innovative educational programs to benefit students and local school districts, the Nebraska State Board of Education awards a \$1,000 grant to each of the finalists so each honored teacher can pursue an educational project of special interest. Since 1988, teachers and their students have acquired (or produced) special curriculum materials, purchased classroom technological equipment, acquired new skills through attendance at seminars, studied arts and humanities, sponsored student field trips, and purchased unique items not otherwise budgeted for (such as art work for display and a school sign for placement outside a new building).

The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has received financial support from BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska State Education Association, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). These sponsors and other friends of the Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program provided stipends to the Awards of Excellence recipients and to the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has also received support from KOLN/KGIN (Channel 10/11), a Community Partner; the University of Nebraska, SMART Technologies, Dillard's Gateway Mall Lincoln, and the Nebraska Corn Board.

Application Checklist

- ☐ Before submitting the application please be sure the application is complete, the required information is provided, and the format guidelines were followed. The Application will not be returned to the nominee.
- ☐ The Nominee signed the Application and attached his/her completed Nominee Authorization Form.
- ☐ Five Essay Questions are completed and attached to the Application in a single PDF document.
- ☐ Résumé (**maximum of two pages**) is attached to the Application in a single PDF document.
- ☐ Letters of Recommendation (**maximum of one page each**) are attached to the Application in three PDF documents.
- ☐ A Written Classroom Lesson is attached to the Application in a single PDF document.
- ☐ A YouTube Classroom Video (**postponed for 2021**) hyperlink is listed in the Application.
- ☐ A Public Speaking Video hyperlink is listed in the Application.
- ☐ The Superintendent and Principal authorized the Nominee's Application by completing the Superintendent and Principal Authorization Forms.
- ☐ Nominee and Nebraska Teacher of the Year Coordinator signed and dated the Completed Application.

Questions/Application Requests

Questions and requests for application forms should be directed to Lora Sypal at (402) 471-5059 or lora.sypal@nebraska.gov.



2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year Application - Parts A and B

NDE: 10-002

Name _____ NDE Staff ID Number _____

Grade and Subject Taught _____ School _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

School Phone _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Which is your gender? ** ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other (please specify) ☐ Decline to answer

Which category includes your age? ** ☐ 21-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60+ ☐ Decline to answer

Which is your ethnicity? ** ☐ Decline to Answer

***The Nebraska Teacher of the Year will be selected without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability. Answering the questions are voluntary but is requested by the National Teacher of the Year Program.*

☐ White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. Not Hispanic or Latino.)

☐ Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin.)

☐ Black/African American (A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.)

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)

☐ Asian/Indian Subcontinent (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.)

☐ Native American/Alaskan Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America [including Central America], and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)

National Professional Association Memberships (select all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Education Association (NEA) | <input type="checkbox"/> American Federation of Teachers (AFT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) | <input type="checkbox"/> National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) | <input type="checkbox"/> National Association for Music Education (NAfME) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Nebraska Professional Association Memberships (select all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska State Literacy Association (NSLA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Nebraska ASCD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics (NATM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska Music Education Association (NMEA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |



Professional Preparation - Check appropriate boxes and fill in other information.

<u>Degrees Earned</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Year Received</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Associates	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Masters	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral	_____	_____	_____

Type of Teaching Certification _____

Professional Experience

List school(s) where you have taught, what subject(s) taught and beginning and ending dates at each school.

<u>School</u>	<u>Subject Taught</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Nominee Electronic Authorization Form and Attachments

Nominee's Blank Authorization Form Hyperlink:

Nominee's *Completed* Authorization Form *Attached*:

Completed Essay Questions *Attached*:

1. Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning?
2. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, how did you collaborate with others, and what is the status of this project today?
3. How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom?
4. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today?
5. As the 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, you serve as a spokesperson and representative for all teachers and students. What is your message?

Resume (a maximum of two pages) *Attached*:

Letter of Recommendation (a maximum of one page) *Attached*:

Letter of Recommendation (a maximum of one page) *Attached*:

Letter of Recommendation (a maximum of one page) *Attached*:

Nominee's Written Lesson Plan (*Attached*):

Nominee's Classroom Video Hyperlink: **(postponed for 2021)**

Nominee's Public Speaking Video Hyperlink:

Superintendent's and Principal's Name, E-mail Addresses, and Links to Electronic Authorization Forms

Superintendent's Name: _____

Superintendent's E-mail Address: _____

Nominee:

Right-click on the Hyperlink.

Select "Copy link address."

Paste the "link address" in an E-mail to your Superintendent to approve your Application.

Superintendent's Blank Authorization Form Hyperlink:

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's E-mail Address: _____

Nominee:

Right-click on the Hyperlink.

Select "Copy link address."

Paste the "link address" in an E-mail to your Principal to approve your Application.

Principal's Blank Authorization Form Hyperlink:

Application Signatures - Nominee and Teacher of the Year Coordinator

Video Basic Guidelines

Please make sure there are no sound, picture quality, or lighting issues as they detract from your video. You may want to see if your high school, district, vocational school, institution of higher learning, or a colleague can tape a high-quality video for you. Do not read directly from notes as you should maintain eye contact at all times and be as engaging as possible. Please edit your video so it is one complete video file - all three segments should be combined into one (1) video. Please record in a file format supported by YouTube (mpeg4, avi, mov, wmv, flv) so that you are able to upload it.

How to Submit Your Video - (postponed for 2021).

If you do not directly have one already, create a free YouTube account at www.youtube.com.

Select "**Sign In**" and then on "**Create an Account**" link in the top right portion of the Homepage.

Upload your video:

- Login to your YouTube Account.
- Click on "**Upload**" using the link at the top of the page.
- Set the privacy setting as "**Unlisted**".
- Click on "**Select Files to Upload**" and select the file.

Please be sure to do the following:

- Title your Classroom Video as: **First and Last Name School Name Classroom Video.**
(example: Lora Sydal NDE High School Grade 8)
- Title your Public Speaking Video as: **First and Last Name Public Speaking Video.**
- Set the privacy setting as "**Unlisted**".

Click on "**Save changes**" link to save the setting for your video - if it is highlighted.

Once the upload is complete, you will see a message "**Upload complete!**"

Your video will be live at: <http://youtube.be/...>

Copy this link and paste it on *page 3* in the *Nominee's Classroom Video Hyperlink* section of the *2021 Application*.

If you experience technical difficulties with pasting the link within the Application,

E-mail your video link: lora.sypal@nebraska.gov

Part A - Application Scoring Rubric

Resume (*A maximum of two pages*).

Maximum 15 points

Beginning with the most recent, list:

- List colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned, dates of attendance and specify if it was a traditional or alternate route teaching training program.
- Teaching employment history, indicating time period, grade level and subject areas.
- Professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
- Current and past professional development opportunities.
- Staff development leadership activities and leadership activities.
- Awards and other recognition of your teaching.

Letters of Recommendation (*A maximum of one page each*).

Maximum 30 points

Include **three** letters of recommendation on official letterhead and signed.

- At least one of the letters must be from either the principal or the candidate's supervisor, which supports why this candidate should be the 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.
- Other letters may be submitted from a community member, colleague, student, or student's parent.

Please speak to the following that this candidate:

- Is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve success.
- Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school climate of respect and success.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls.

Part A - Guidelines, Application Essay Questions, and Rubric

- *The following essay questions should be answered on separate sheets of paper.*
- *Restate the question at the top of the page for each answer and begin each question on a separate sheet.*
- *Points may be deducted for not following instructions and for grammatical and typographical errors.*
- *Each essay response is limited to two double-spaced pages.*
- *Whether nominated by someone or applying directly, each candidate must personally complete the application form.*
- *All answers must be in the teacher's own words.*
- *Use 1-inch margins, standard size font (12 point Garamond or Times New Roman).*

Essay Questions:

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher.
How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning? | Maximum 15 points |
| 2. | Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture.
What was your role, how did you collaborate with others, and what is the status of this project today? | Maximum 20 points |
| 3. | How do you ensure education transcends the classroom? | Maximum 20 points |
| 4. | What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? | Maximum 20 points |
| 5. | As the 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, you serve as a spokesperson and representative for all teachers and students. What is your message? | Maximum 20 points |

Part B - Lesson Plan, Classroom Lesson Video (postponed for 2021), and Public Speaking Rubric

1. **Part I: Written Classroom Lesson Plan** Maximum 15 points

Submit the classroom lesson plan in the video you selected to upload.

2. **Part II: Video - Description of Lesson (3 minutes) (postponed for 2021)** Maximum 15 points

No more than three minutes in length for the description of the lesson. It's OK if you go under this time limit, just not over.

Start with a title screen listing the following information:

- Your first and last name.
- 2021 Nebraska Awards of Excellence Recipient.
- School name.
- District name.

Talk directly into the camera to set the context for the interview committee by talking to the following:

- Your name, school, and district name.
- Type of class/course that will be seen in the video.
- Grade level of students in the video.

Set the context for the lesson

- Content - include the lesson objective(s).
- Learning environment.
- Anything else the interview committee should know about the class.
- Any learning/lessons that occurred prior to the lesson that connect directly with it and what will happen immediately after the lesson to reinforce the concepts.
- Were your lesson objective(s) met? How do you know?
- Anything else that you would do differently next time? If so, why and what impact might this have?

3. **Part III: Video - Classroom Lesson (15 minutes) (postponed for 2021)** Maximum 30 points

No more than 15-20 minutes in length of a continuous and unedited lesson. It's OK if you go under this time limit, just not over.

DO NOT STOP THE VIDEOTAPING FOR ANY REASON ONCE IT IS STARTED, AS IT MUST BE UNEDITED.

Try to videotape several lessons and submit the best one.

The selection panel will be looking for evidence of the following taken from the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Frameworks:

- **Planning and Preparation:** The teacher plans using curricula and standards, evidence-based resources, data, and community context to address the needs of each student in achieving rigorous learning goals.
- **The Learning Environment:** The teacher creates and maintains a learning environment that promotes student engagement and fosters positive relationships, inclusivity, social-emotional development, and academic achievement.
- **Instructional Strategies:** The teacher implements evidence-based instructional strategies to ensure student growth and achievement.
- **Assessment:** The teacher systematically uses multiple methods of formative, interim, and summative assessment to measure student progress and to inform ongoing planning, instruction, and reporting.
- **Professionalism:** The teacher exhibits a commitment to professional ethics and the school's mission, participates in professional growth opportunities to support student learning, and contributes to the profession.

4. **Part IV: Public Speaking - Education Issue & Trend (2 minutes)** Maximum 20 points

No more than two minutes in length. It's OK if you go under this time limit, just not over.

- Speak to Essay Question #4 in Part A of the Nebraska Teacher of the Year Application.
- Discuss in detail what you consider to be a major public education issue today.
- Describe how you demonstrate being a lifelong learner, leading and innovator about this issue, both in and outside of the classroom walls.