

Distinguished New Teacher Awards Nomination Guidelines

1. The awards are designed to honor outstanding TEA members in their first five years of professional service in education. The awards fall under the Distinguished Educator Awards Program (DEAP) umbrella; however, the categories, application and prizes differ for the traditional DEAP awards.
2. Service is to be determined by total years completed which could include public and/or private assignments. Any pre-service or other higher education experience should not be considered in the total years of service for purposes of eligibility.
3. To be eligible for nomination, applicants must hold a baccalaureate or higher degree or the regular teaching, professional school services, vocational or technical certificate required for employment. At least 50% of their annual assignment must be instructional or working with students.
4. A total of three (3) state-wide awards shall be awarded annually with one (1) award in each of the grade levels listed below. If an educator has served in multiple grades across their career span, he/she should compete in the grade level of their current assignment. Educators who currently serve students across grade-level categories may be nominated in any one category of service.
 - Pre-K through Fourth Grade
 - Fifth Grade through Eighth Grade
 - Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade

Nominations must be submitted electronically to the Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) Division no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 2 at DEAP@tea.nea.org.

5. Upon receipt of the applications by the IPD Division, each application will be forwarded to the appropriate local association president for screening and endorsement. Local association presidents in consultation with the new teacher and IPD committees shall have the responsibility of determining which applications will be advanced into the statewide scoring based on the number allowable per association. Local association presidents will inform the IPD Division of their final selection(s) in writing within two weeks.
6. Local associations may endorse multiple applications in each grade-level category based on the local association membership categories as listed below:
 - 13 – 100 Members — One (1) application per grade-level category
 - 101 – 180 Members — Two (2) applications per grade-level category
 - 181 – 450 Members — Three (3) applications per grade-level category
 - 451 – 999 Members — Four (4) applications per grade-level category
 - 1000+ Members — Five (5) applications per grade-level category
7. Each endorsed application will be scored by four individuals. The lowest score will be dropped in calculating the final average. The four scores will be selected from the following sources until a pool of prior winners is established.
 - IPD Commission — Each application will be scored by one member
 - DEAP former winners — Each application will be scored by one member from the grade range of applicants
 - Pool of teachers in each grade-level range as recommended by the local association presidents — Each application will be scored by two persons from the scoring pool.



Nomination Guidelines continued

8. Award recipients shall receive framed certificates and a significant technological gift such as a netbook or tablet computer. Prizes will be awarded in the school setting in the late spring by a TEA representative. Winners will be announced in the TEA Awards program, on the TEA website, through press releases and other available media sources. Winners may also be recognized by local businesses in promotional programs.
9. Winners will be asked to provide a high-resolution photograph for TEA publications and public relations use.
10. Former award recipients are ineligible for nomination within the same category; however, unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to compete throughout the eligibility period.

