

**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
HONORS COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS  
FOR THE 2025-2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Applications/Nominations for the annual New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children **Teacher of the Year Award** will be accepted until February 14, 2026. This award was established to honor an outstanding special education teacher. The winner of this award will be honored at the New Jersey Federation Spring conference. The winner's name will be forwarded to National CEC to compete for the national 2026 Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award. Criteria for selection of the Teacher of the Year are:

1. The recipient must be currently involved in the provision of direct services to disabled and/or gifted and talented students.
2. The recipient should have demonstrated exemplary performance over a period of time as a teacher (or provider of direct services) exhibiting such qualities as innovativeness, imagination, creativity, and ability to inspire, as indicated by achievements clearly recognized by members of the profession and others knowledgeable of the candidate.
3. The recipient must be a member in good standing of CEC, and should be an appropriately qualified teacher or related specialist as recognized by state and professional authorities.

**This year there will be a monetary stipend for both a Novice and a Master Teacher to be awarded at our NJCEC conference on March 16, 2026 at Ramapo College.**

Applications/Nominations should include all the information requested on the sample form shown below. Supportive documentation should focus on the qualities, which contributed to the exemplary performance of this person in the delivery of direct services. The original and four copies of the complete nomination package should be forwarded no later than February 14, 2026. Email nominations to: [bms17@verizon.net](mailto:bms17@verizon.net)

**Barry Schwartz, Awards Chair, The New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children**

**APPLICATION / NOMINATION FORM**

**2025-2026 NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

RE: Nomination of: \_\_\_\_\_ CEC ID # : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach:

1. A description of the outstanding professional contributions of the nominee in the delivery of direct services. Use no more than three (3) typewritten pages.
2. Resume of the nominee.
3. No more than five (5) single page, single-spaced, letters of recommendation.
4. This application and signature gives permission, if selected as a recipient of an award or scholarship, for NJCEC to include their name, picture and award on the NJCEC website, newsletter and other communications about their scholarship.

**DEADLINE: ALL APPLICATIONS NOMINATIONS MUST BE EMAILED BY  
February 14, 2026**