



2026 Selection Process

**May be modified as CDE guidelines become available*

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Nominees due to NCOE: February 20, 2026

Most Excellent School Staff Celebration: May 13, 2026

Fall 2025 to Feb. 2026: Districts select Teacher of the Year nominee(s)

** NVUSD can submit up to 5 nominees; CJUSD, HMESD, NCOE, PVUESD, SHUSD can submit 1 nominee each; for a total of 10 county-wide nominees.*

- 1) Each district uses an internal process to select their nominee(s).
- 2) Districts are welcome (not required) to use the [Napa County Teacher of the Year logo](#) in marketing their internal program.
- 3) Each nomination put forward to NCOE for the County TOY program must include the following items:
 - A completed [TOY and Administrator Participation Agreement](#)
 - A Principal one-page Letter of Recommendation
 - An essay from the nominee, using the [requested prompt](#) (CA Teacher of the Year Essay #1)

4) Nominee packets are DUE to NCOE no later than **5 p.m. on February 20, 2026**. Email submissions to mdrossos@napacoe.org and put district and nominee name in the subject line.

Napa County TOY/California TOY Eligibility Requirements

- A **fully credentialed, full-time** teacher in public or private schools.
- Teaches any of **pre-kindergarten through grade twelve** to children or adults.
- Have completed **eight years of teaching** at the time of the application submission to NCOE.
- **Can have some administrative responsibilities** but teaching students must be the primary responsibility.
- Be **available to fulfill ambassadorial duties** during the year of service and be supported by their employer if selected as California Teacher of the Year.

Timeline for NCOE County-Wide Selection Process

- February 20, 2026: District nominees are due to NCOE. Email submissions to mdrossos@napacoe.org and put district and nominee name in the subject line.
- A selection committee led by NCOE will review the nominations. The process will include a review of the teacher essay and principal recommendation, as well as an in-person site visit to each of the nominees' classrooms.
- March 2 - March 20, 2026: TOY site visits will be conducted.
- In **early April 2026, NCOE will announce the Napa County Teacher of the Year**. The remaining nominees will be recognized as finalists.
- **May 13, 2026** NCOE will host the annual Most Excellent School Staff community event, honoring the finalists and the Teacher of the Year, as well as the Napa County Classified School Employees of the Year.

June-July 2026 NCOE staff works with TOY to complete the CA TOY application

1) The application includes a series of essays to be completed by the TOY and a data section that NCOE will ask the relevant district to help complete. The application calls for a photo portrait of the nominee. NCOE will make those arrangements with the TOY.

2) NCOE will submit the application on Napa County's behalf in July. The exact date is TBD, subject to the CDE deadline.