

Nomination Forms

**INDIANA SMALL & RURAL SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2026-2027
Rural Teacher of the Year**

**NOMINATION DEADLINE –
Received by Friday , April 24, 2026**

**\$1000 Cash Award Sponsored
by Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.**

Award \$1,000

**The Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year
will also be nominated and represent the ISRSA in the:
National Rural
Teacher of the Year Program
National Rural Education Association
(\$2000 Awarded to the Teacher
and \$1000 to the School District)**

www.indianasmallandrural.org

2026 - 2027 Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year Nomination Cover Sheet

Name of Nominee _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Personal Email Address: _____

School Name _____

School Telephone (_____) _____

Your Cell Number: (_____) _____

School Address _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of students in Nominee's School District _____

Number of students in Nominee's School Building _____

Subject(s) and Grade Level(s) taught

Years in present position _____ Years of Teaching Experience _____

By completing this form, I give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address, and telephone) may be shared with all persons involved in the selection and promotion of the INDIANA RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR. If selected as the Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year, I agree that my application may be submitted to the NREA for participation in the 2026- 2027, NATIONAL RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR program. If selected as the NATIONAL RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, I agree to make every reasonable effort to fulfill all responsibilities as required.*

Signature of the Applicant/ Nominee _____

Date _____

- Attendance expected at NREA Convention.
- Up to \$1500 for travel expenses paid by the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association
- Possible Indiana Farm Bureau event (s) for recognition.
- Other possible events as requested by the ISRSA/NREA/Indiana Farm Bureau

APPLICATION / NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

The Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year nomination may be submitted by email in a PDF or Microsoft Office Word document using the information below. Please check for confirmation of receipt, if submitted electronically.

INDIANA SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION, INC. Rural
Teacher of the Year Program C/O Christopher Lagoni, Executive
Director

indianasmallandrural@gmail.com
765-437-2636

Qualifications:

1. The teacher nominated must be directly involved in Pre K - 12 classroom instruction in a public or non-public rural school.
2. The individual may be nominated only for his/ her position or role in rural education.
3. To be eligible for consideration as the 2026- 2027, INDIANA RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, nominees must hold a Pre-K-12 teaching position in Indiana during the spring of 2026.
4. An application form must be completed for each nominee.
5. Each section of the application packet has a maximum length requirement.
6. Letters of recommendation should be single or double spaced on letterhead or personal stationery.
7. Each application response should be double-spaced, on one side only, with one-inch margins, on 8.5 x 11 inch, white paper, and may not use a font size smaller than 12 point.
8. The applicant's name must appear on every page of the application packet and pages numbered (upper right corner preferred).
9. All materials should be stapled/secured together in the upper left corner.
10. Upon selection as Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year, the nominee agrees to work in collaboration with their school to complete the National Rural Teacher of the Year Application - nrea.net

Proposed 2026-2027 Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year Schedule

-By Friday, May 8th 2026 -Award Announcement –

**-By Friday, May 22rd, 2026 -Award Recipient and School Submit
NREA National Rural Teacher of the Year Packet**

Packet Sections for the Application/Nomination

- Please label each section of your Nomination Packet
- Please number and place the Nominee's name in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the application
- Please address letters to: "Indiana Small and Rural Association AND National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year Committees."

Section 1. NOMINATOR'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please address letters to: "Indiana Small and Rural Association AND National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year Committees"

Using specific descriptions and examples, succinctly explain what qualities the nominee possesses and what activities have been undertaken, goals accomplished, projects completed, etc. on behalf of schools and students that qualify the nominee as deserving national recognition. Maximum of one page.

Section 2. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please address letters to: "Indiana Small and Rural Association AND National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year Committees"

- THREE letters of recommendation are required in addition to the nominator's letter of recommendation. The letters of recommendation should be selected from three of the five following categories; Administrator, Teacher, Community Member, Parent, and Student. Please address letters to "Indiana Small and Rural Association AND National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year Committees." Each letter of recommendation is limited to a maximum of one page (single or double spaced is accepted).

Section 3. BACKGROUND

This is where the nominee describes background, experiences, and activities related to exceptional performance in the educational system/building or district. This could include biographical information, educational background, action photos, awards, honors, community recognition, etc. The maximum length is two double-spaced pages.

Section 4. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

The nominee should address the questions that are designed to focus on specific parts of the educator's work using specific examples and information. Please label each of the key areas and question number. The maximum length is five double-spaced pages for response to all questions.

These questions are to be completed by the nominee and address key questions which will be used to evaluate the application.

A. IMPACT ON STUDENTS/STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

1. How has the applicant incorporated the concepts of higher standards in his/her teaching for all students, used creativity and innovation in the classroom, and demonstrated that all students could succeed in learning at the higher level?
2. How has the applicant consistently over time, demonstrated his/her care for students?

Examples can be from the classroom when working directly with students as well as activities outside the classroom and other non-classroom interactions with students.

Packet Sections for the Application/Nomination – page 2

B. COLLABORATION

1. How has the applicant demonstrated excellence as a contributing member of the collaborative rural community?
2. How has the applicant demonstrated that he/she is a teacher who collaborates with fellow educators, parents, families and the community in an effort to improve teaching and learning, and fosters collaboration and teamwork among students?

C. CONTINUOUS LEARNING

1. How is the individual's commitment to lifelong learning being demonstrated in the form of participation in professional development programs to enhance content knowledge, assisting another faculty with professional development, and/or enabling community activities that provide learning experiences for working adults, senior citizens, and parents?

D. LEADERSHIP

1. How has the applicant exemplified leadership skills that will support and expand student achievement, push traditional limits, and establish attainable goals for the students, and the school district?
2. How has the applicant's leadership in the educational community impacted the school district and the community?
Examples could be creating links between the school and community and service to the community.

E. SUMMARY

1. Summarize how the applicant demonstrated excellence in fulfillment of a teacher's duties, as well as examples of performance that exceed expectations.

Employer Confirmation of Application **SCHOOL BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR**

Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Telephone (_____) _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I acknowledge that the nominee, _____, is submitting this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the INDIANA RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR for 2026 - 2027, he/she will be released from classroom responsibilities, as his/her availability allows during the year of that recognition, fulfilling the obligations inherent in serving as the INDIANA RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR.*

Signature of the Building Administrator

Date

Employer Confirmation of Application **SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

Name _____ Title _____

School District _____

District Telephone (_____) _____

District Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I acknowledge that the nominee, _____, is submitting this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the INDIANA RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR for 2026 – 2027, he/she will be released from classroom responsibilities, as his/her availability allows during the year of that recognition, fulfilling the obligations inherent in serving as the INDIANA RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR.*

Signature of the District Superintendent

Date

Possible, but not limited to these activities:

*Attendance of the Indiana Teacher of the Year is during the NREA Convention –
October 19-21, 2026 San Antonio, Texas

* Indiana Small and Rural Schools pays up to \$1500 toward expenses

*Attendance during the 2026 ISRSA Annual Meeting – 1 Day in September 2026 for
recognition *Attendance during at least one Indiana Farm Bureau event for recognition