




NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Maurice "Mo" Green, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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TO Exceptional Children Administrators, Public School Units

FROM Dr. Carol Ann M. Hudgens, Senior Director, Office of Exceptional Children 

DATE June 25, 2025

2025 OFFICE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION

The Office of Exceptional Children's 74th Conference on Exceptional Children will be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on November 20-21, 2025. We would like to pay special tribute to educators of exceptional children and to present the 2025 Educator of Excellence Award to each nominee at the conference.

We will recognize one educator from each of the 117 traditional school systems, one each from the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Division of Prison Education Services, Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities, and Education Services for the Deaf and Blind Schools, and one educator per region from charter schools. Each educator will:

- Have special seating during the Thursday morning plenary session;
- Have his/her name listed with appropriate information in the conference program;
- Attend a ceremony in his/her honor on Thursday evening; and
- Have his/her picture with PSU and school name displayed at the conference.

Each recipient of the Educator of Excellence Award will receive a paid registration to the general conference only. If they would like to attend an institute, they are responsible for the institute fee. It is the responsibility of the school system, charter school, or state-operated program to reimburse the nominated teacher for lodging, mileage, and subsistence.

To facilitate the selection process, the Office of Exceptional Children requests that:

- Local school systems identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children.
- Education Services for the Deaf and Blind identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children.
- Charter schools identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children. (One per region will be selected).
- Division of Prison Education Services identifies one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children from the schools under its oversight.
- Recipients must register for the General Conference by October 27, 2025. Links and instructions will be included in the congratulatory communication to the recipient which will follow nominations submissions closing date of October 3, 2025.

The nominee must:

- Have a continuing license if a teacher.

OFFICE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

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- Have at least a Class G license if an audiologist, a speech-language pathologist or school psychologist; or be licensed by the appropriate licensing board if an occupational therapist or a physical therapist.
- Be an employee or direct hire of the nominating PSU.
- Provide direct instruction or therapy/services to students with disabilities 70% of the time.
- Be recognized as a leader in service to the school and/or school system through innovative instructional programs or methodologies that have demonstrated positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

Consideration should also be given to the person whose leadership, dedication, and service in extracurricular and nonacademic activities have improved the quality of education for exceptional children and youth. It is the responsibility of the nominating entity to ensure that the nominee selected demonstrates a positive reflection on the educational profession. Recipients of the award during the past five (5) years should not be nominated this year. All nominations should be submitted electronically by Friday, October 3, 2025, using this link: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dm1Ro6BaHh857a6

A completed submission requires uploading the following items. Be sure to have them available when completing the form.

1. PDF of a letter that describes the person's contributions as mentioned above (the letter must carry the signatures of the Superintendent and the Director/Coordinator, Exceptional Children Program on school system letterhead); and
2. One (1) 3" x 5" digital color photograph (jpg) of the person.
3. The name of Public-School Unit and School Name.

We look forward to your participation in this event to recognize and honor Exceptional Children Educators of Excellence. You may direct any questions or concerns to Heather Cox, Heather.Cox@dpi.nc.gov, Melissa Towery, Melissa.Towery@dpi.nc.gov, and/or Elizabeth Loring, Elizabeth.Loring@dpi.nc.gov.