



RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

The Rural Schools Association of NYS seeks to highlight the wonderful level of teaching in rural school districts. In selecting a NYS Rural Teacher of the Year, we hope to spotlight the best among us, to inspire others and help increase the awareness of the value rural education brings to its communities.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 2026

AWARD INCLUDES:

- **\$1,000 Awarded to the teacher for their own classroom**
- **\$2000 Awarded to the teacher to enhance the rural education program in their district**
- **Plaque given to the school district to proudly display**
- **NOMINATION TO REPRESENT RSANY IN THE**

National Rural Teacher of the Year Program
National Rural Education Association
Expenses for travel and overnight accommodations shall be covered by the sponsor.

APPLICATION / NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

The Rural Schools Association of New York (RSANY) 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.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

Rural Teacher of the Year Program

**rsa@rsany.org
(518) 750-4223**

Qualifications:

1. The teacher nominated must be directly involved in Pre K - 12 classroom instruction in a 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 RSANY RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, nominees must hold a Pre-K-12 teaching position in New York during the previous year and maintain appropriate NYS certification.
4. Each section of the application packet has a maximum length requirement.
5. Letter of recommendation should be double spaced on letterhead or personal stationery.
6. 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.
7. The applicant's name must appear on every page of the application packet and pages numbered (upper right corner preferred).
8. All materials should be emailed to rsa@rsany.org.
9. Upon selection as RSANY Rural Teacher of the Year, the nominee agrees to work in collaboration with their school district to complete the National Rural Teacher of the Year Application.
10. Understand that this designation may result in the expectation of your presence and participation at various conferences and events.

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: "Rural Schools Association of New York Teacher of the Year Committee."

Section 1. NOMINATOR'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please address letters to: "Rural Schools Association of New York-Teacher of the Year Committee."

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 state recognition. Maximum of one page.

Section 2. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please address letters to: "Rural Schools Association of New York Teacher of the Year Committee."

One letter of recommendation is required in addition to the nominator's letter of recommendation. The letter of recommendation could come from any of the following categories; Administrator, Teacher, Community Member, Parent, and Student. Please address letters to "Rural Schools Association of New York Teacher of the Year Committee."

The letter of recommendation is limited to a maximum of one page (double spaced).

Section 3. BACKGROUND NARRATIVE

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. When submitting your narrative to support your candidacy, please consider including the elements listed below.

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

Impact on Student Achievement - Collaboration - Continuous Learning - Leadership

Employee/Employer Confirmation of Application

Teacher 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 RSANY RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR for the 2025-2026 school year, I understand that this designation may result in the expectation of their presence and participation at various conferences and events inherent in serving as the RSANY RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR as follows:

- Attendance during the NREA Convention (travel & lodging expenses covered by RSA), which will be held in San Antonio, Texas from October 19th-21st, 2026.
- Attendance during the RSANY Summer Conference (lodging expenses covered by RSA), which will be held in Lake Placid, New York from July 12th-14th, 2026. This would be for recognition purposes.

Name of the Teacher	Signature	Date
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Name of the Building Administrator	Signature	Date
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Name of the School District Superintendent	Signature	Date
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