

# 2025-26 NATIONAL PLTW ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The [2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year Awards portal](#) opens Tuesday, April 1, 2025, and closes Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

## Overview

PLTW honors outstanding administrators who exhibit exemplary leadership that has a significant and positive impact in a PLTW school or district.

**Eligibility:** Qualified nominees may include roles like principals, technology specialists, instructional coaches, directors, superintendents, or any educator whose responsibilities include no more than 25 percent of the direct instruction of students.

To ensure that all applications are current and highlight the best attributes of educators in their current role, individuals who earned the Outstanding PLTW Administrator recognition in prior school years must receive a new nomination for consideration for the 2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year awards following the standard nomination process outlined below.

## Award

PLTW will consider all administrator nominations for the 2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year award. The 2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year award recipient will receive:

- An engraved award recognizing the recipient's outstanding achievement.
- A celebratory recognition event planned in your school building.
- \$1,000 prize (subject to all applicable federal, state, and local income taxes)
- School Award: Winners' schools will also receive a \$2,000 myPLTW Store credit
- Travel and registration to the PLTW Summit 2026
- Recognition through PLTW communications.
- Public recognition of the recipient's award.

Award recipients also have the opportunity to:

- Be featured in PLTW stories, promotions, and communications.
- Be recognized and honored at PLTW events.

All qualifying nominations will receive the 2025-26 Outstanding PLTW Administrator award. All 2025-26 Outstanding PLTW Administrators will receive an engraved award, as well as features on PLTW social media channels, in the myPLTW Direct, and other communications.

## Nomination Process

Any member of the educational community (staff, faculty, administrators, or students) can submit a nomination for this award. Self-nominations are no longer accepted for this award.

**The nomination portal closes on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.** The National PLTW Administrator of the Year award winner will be notified in late June 2025, and PLTW will publicly recognize the National PLTW Administrator of the Year and Outstanding Administrators in the fall of 2025.

## Criteria for Selection

Nominees demonstrate their commitment to reaching more students and teachers, and creating an impact on their lives through PLTW programs, aligned to the following criteria:

### 1. Student Impact

PLTW administrators have an immeasurable impact on the lives of their students. Impact can be demonstrated through the way that a PLTW administrator enables and empowers students within their school community to develop key transportable skills (e.g., communication, collaboration, problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, and ethical reasoning and mindset). It can also be demonstrated through how the administrator goes above and beyond to implement and/or support PLTW programs and create STEM opportunities for students. Consider the following questions when describing the nominee's impact:

- How does this administrator empower students within their community to develop skills that will set them up for success during school and into adulthood? What evidence is provided to support their impact?
- How has this administrator gone above and beyond that of his or her peers in their implementation and support of PLTW programs and engaging STEM opportunities for students?
- What evidence is there to show how this administrator has impacted students by creating opportunities for them to explore STEM interests and careers?
- What observable impact has the administrator had on students in their educational community?

### 2. Expanding Student Access

PLTW is beneficial for all students and is most effective when students can collaborate with and learn from their peers. Difference in thought leads to better solutions. Outstanding PLTW administrators recognize the importance of encouraging and providing broad access to PLTW programs and curricula. Consider the following questions when describing the nominee's expansion of student access:

- How does the nominee actively engage with the PLTW network through local, state, and/or national initiatives? What does the level of engagement consist of and how has it helped students in that region?
- How does the nominee promote PLTW within their school, district, and/or community? What examples are provided?
- Has the nominee increased student access to PLTW programs and STEM opportunities? How did the nominee accomplish this? What quantitative and/or qualitative evidence is provided to demonstrate the increased access?

### 3. Transforming Teaching

Outstanding PLTW administrators are leaders among their peers who value life-long learning and professional development and welcome the use of innovative methods and tools. Consider the following questions when describing how the nominee has transformed teaching:

- To what extent does the administrator demonstrate leadership within their school, school district, local community of educators, and the greater PLTW network?
- To what extent does the administrator encourage the use of innovative methods and tools to engage students in active, hands-on learning that provides connection and relevancy to the real world?
- To what extent does the administrator demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning through actively pursuing professional development opportunities and encouraging or supporting the development of others?

## Submission Requirements

- **Nominator Information**
  - Nominator full name
  - Nominator email
  - Nominator phone
  - Nominator state
  - Nominator school or organization
  - Nominator professional title
- **Nominee Information**
  - Nominee first name
  - Nominee last name
  - Nominee professional email
  - Nominee personal or preferred email (will only be used to notify administrator if they are selected as the National PLTW Administrator of the Year)
  - Nominee cell phone or preferred phone (will only be used to notify administrator if they are

selected as the National PLTW Administrator of the Year)

- Nominee title
- Nominee state
- **Nominee's School and District Information**
  - Nominee school district name
  - Nominee superintendent name
  - Nominee superintendent email
  - Nominee school name
  - Nominee principal name
  - Nominee principal email
- **Nominee criteria evidence:** Nominee criteria evidence demonstrates how the nominee meets the criteria listed in the "Criteria for Selection" section. The format should adhere to the following guidelines: maximum 300 words for each criterion.
- **Please share how the nominee promotes a welcoming and supportive learning environment.**
- **Nominee's extracurriculars:** Activities, professional member associations, leadership positions held, committees, etc.
- **Two Letters of support:** Two letters of support from individuals who are familiar with the nominee's work and whose role aligns to the categories below:
  - Letter 1: Staff (Must be written by a school or district staff member, depending on the role of the nominee. E.g., building principals should have a letter written by one of their school staff members.)
  - Letter 2: Community Member (May be written by a member of the community, such as a business leader, partnership team member, parent, or student)

Letters should not exceed 750 words each and the nominator must submit the letters through the nomination portal. When possible, use letterhead. Sign and date letters appropriately. Letters should reference the nominee's strengths, identify accomplishments, and highlight leadership experiences that directly connect to the criteria for selection.
- **PLTW won't accept late nominations or incomplete submissions.** You must complete nominations by **Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

To get started:

1. Log in to the [2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year Award Portal](#).

- a. Please refer to the instructions listed under the FAQ "How do I create a login for the 2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year Award Portal?"
2. Make sure you have all the information needed to complete your nomination.
3. Select **Submit Nomination**.
4. Fill out the nomination in its entirety.
  - a. Should you need to stop in the middle of your nomination and wish to continue your submission later, select **Save**.
  - b. The 2025-26 National PLTW Administrator of the Year Award Portal closes **Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. You cannot submit your nomination after that time.
5. Once you've entered all information, select **Submit**.
6. Congratulations on submitting a nomination!