



PENNSYLVANIA PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025

Dr. Eric C. Eshbach
Executive Director

Dr. Michael S. Snell
Asst. Executive Director

To: Pennsylvania Superintendents and Secondary PA Principals Association Members
(Please share with Parent Advisory and other Interested Groups)
From: Edward Roth, PA Principals Assoc. Secondary Division Awards Committee Chairperson
Re: **Nominations for PA's 2026 State/2026 NASSP Secondary Principal of the Year Award**

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Principals Association, I invite you to participate in the nomination of the 2026 State/2026 NASSP Principal of the Year Award. **The deadline for state nominations is Friday, September 26, 2025.** (Selection at the State level affords the recipient the opportunity to be selected as **NASSP 2026 National Principal of the Year**).

Nominating a principal for this prestigious award provides you with an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of **an outstanding middle level or high school principal**, both public and private school, who provides outstanding leadership for his/her students, staff, community and peers.

To assist you in your consideration of potential nominees, please look over the criteria for selection listed below.

Eligibility:

- Any principal, headmaster or leader of a virtual, public or private middle level or high school is eligible to be nominated as a State Principal of the Year candidate if they meet the eligibility criteria of this section.
- **Each candidate must be nominated by someone other than himself/herself.**
- Each candidate must be a principal or headmaster and **member of NASSP and PA Principals Association at the time of selection as State Principal of the Year and throughout the year of his/her term.**
- Middle level and high schools are defined as those containing some portion of grades 6 – 12.
- **All applicants must have served as a principal at one or more middle level or high school for **three (3) full consecutive years or longer.****
- **ALL CANDIDATES** must complete a shortened PA Principals Principal of the Year online application that takes approximately 35 minutes to complete.
- **THE WINNER** must complete the official 2026 NASSP National Principal of the Year online application.
- **This program is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line principals.** It is not recognition of service at retirement or a program to reward current state or national leaders. Current staff members, members of the NASSP Board of Directors or State Executive Directors are ineligible. Members of the PA Principals Association Executive Committee are also ineligible. Previous state and national winner are eligible to reapply for the award after a period of five years.
- For more eligibility information, please visit: <https://nasspawards.org/poy/eligibility>

Personal Excellence

- Models continuous professional growth
- Interacts professionally and tactfully with others
- Communicates effectively in speaking and writing

- Demonstrates commitment to National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and its programs through continuous membership and participation in the following:
 - NASSP through national and state affiliate involvement
 - National Honor Society (NHS), National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and/or National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) chapter(s) that actively supports achievement and works to improve the academic culture in the school
 - National Association of Student Councils (NASC) affiliation with active community and school involvement

Collaborative Leadership

- Involves teachers, staff members, parents, students and the community in creating and fostering a shared vision for the school
- Leads collaboratively to promote ownership among staff, students, parents and community members for school efforts and outcomes
- Creates a culture of collaboration in which staff members work together as a professional learning community to promote student learning
- Teaches, coaches and supports the development of potential and current school leaders
- Utilizes available technology tools for school management and operation, instruction and assessment, fostering collaboration and communication to effectively address issues in the school community and meet the unique learning needs of each student.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Improves teaching, learning and assessment by implementing practices, programs and improvement efforts based on multiple sources of data Leads efforts in curriculum alignment and identification of essential learnings at each level
- Observes, supervises, and evaluates teachers and instructional programs to maximize the learning opportunities for every teacher and for every student
- Demonstrates knowledge of learning, teaching, assessment practices, research and programs that maximize student performance
- Facilitates in developing and maintaining co-curricular programs that complement the curriculum while fostering students' academic success
- Ensures that each student has the best possible opportunity of realizing success by providing a personalized plan that evaluates individual learner needs in relation to learning time, setting, methods and course sequence
- Provides enrichment and support for both students and teachers in meeting high standards

Personalization

- Establishes and maintains a school environment that reflects high expectations for students and staff members
- Creates a school climate that is warm, inviting, safe and secure
- Organizes the school so that all social, economic and racial/ethnic groups have equal access to all school programs and provides the support needed for student success
- Creates structures that promote positive relationships between adults and students and ensures that each student is well-known by at least one staff member
- Acknowledges the accomplishments of students, teachers and school community members

If you are interested in nominating a secondary principal for this award, please complete the brief nomination form attached to this email. This nomination form must be emailed to Julie Sunday at sunday@papprincipals.org no later than Friday, September 26, 2025.

As soon as we receive your nomination form and verify eligibility, the online application instructions will be sent to your nominee for him/her to complete. **The deadline for applications to be completed online is Friday, October 17, 2025**, and you are strongly encouraged to make your nomination as early as possible to give the nominee the maximum time to complete the online application process.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would share this information with other persons or groups you feel might be interested in submitting nominations.

If you have questions regarding the nomination process or the NASSP/PA Principals Association State Principal of the Year program, feel free to contact the PA Principals Association Office for assistance at 717-732-4999.