



COMMISSIONER'S RECOGNITION AWARDS

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2024-2025 Outstanding School Volunteer Awards

The Outstanding School Volunteer Awards are presented annually to school volunteers who have shown exceptional dedication and commitment to quality education in Florida schools. Award winners are selected based on character, type and breadth of volunteer service, and impact of volunteer contribution.

Timeline

- September** Applications are distributed to superintendents and district volunteer coordinators.
- December 12** Deadline for applications to be submitted online at [2024-2025 Outstanding School Volunteer Award](#). All documentation must be submitted electronically as part of the online application. Submissions received after **December 12, 2024**, will not be considered.
- January** State selection committee reviews nominees.
- March** Announcements of the Outstanding School Volunteer winners are made.

Eligibility

The following requirements must be met in nominating a candidate for the Outstanding School Volunteer Award:

- 1) Each district may nominate three volunteers:
 - **Volunteer** aged 21 to 61 years
 - **Youth Volunteer** aged 20 years and younger
 - **Senior Volunteer** aged 62 years and older
- 2) Outstanding School Volunteer candidates will have a track record of exceptional commitment to student learning and success.
- 3) Volunteer candidates must have attended a volunteer orientation or received training.
- 4) Volunteer services will have been performed within the school environment.

Nomination Criteria

A nomination for the Outstanding School Volunteer Award should reflect volunteer's exemplary service to Florida schools and students in the following categories:

- **Type of Volunteer Contribution:** Consider the services performed and activities undertaken, as well as the need for services or activities performed.
- **Character of Volunteer Service:** Consider creative, unique or innovative characteristics of volunteer's service and the quality of service (e.g., accomplishments, effort, obstacles overcome, etc.).

- **Breadth of Volunteer Contribution:** Consider the number of years of service, average weekly hours of volunteer service and number of students benefiting, directly or indirectly.
- **Impact of Volunteer Service:** Consider the specific outcomes on student achievement (direct or indirect) and the impact on school improvement (e.g., climate, behavior, attendance, etc.).

Application Submission

Once eligibility requirements have been met and district nominations have been determined in each of the categories, the District Volunteer Coordinator may access the online application at [2024-2025 Outstanding School Volunteer Award](#). A separate nomination form must be submitted for each award category.

An acknowledgement statement from the Superintendent with his/her signature must be submitted for each nominee. Please name this file "*District-Nominee Last Name-Superintendent Last Name*" and upload with nominee's application. See sample below.

Applications must be received by **Thursday, December 12, 2024**, in order to be considered by the selection committee. The selection committee will consider and review only the required materials, thus additional materials should not be submitted with the application.

SAMPLE SUPERINTENDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

[SCHOOL DISTRICT LETTERHEAD]

[Month XX], 2024

The [SCHOOL DISTRICT] is pleased to nominate [NOMINEE NAME] as our [volunteer, youth volunteer or senior volunteer] candidate for the **2024-2025 Outstanding School Volunteer Award**.

Additional information concerning our nomination may be directed to [NAME], District Volunteer Coordinator, at [PHONE] or by email at [EMAIL ADDRESS].

Sincerely,

[NAME], Superintendent
[SCHOOL DISTRICT]