

Montana Association of County Superintendents of Schools 2025 Rural Teacher of the Year Nomination

The Montana Association of County Superintendents of Schools is seeking nominations for its annual Rural Teacher of the Year Award to be presented by MACSS during its spring conference. This award is designed to honor a teacher who has demonstrated outstanding qualities as an educator and who is currently serving in a rural school setting with no assigned administrator except for a principal and/or the County Superintendent. The award will include a \$500.00 endowment and an all-expense paid trip, including a substitute teacher, to the MACSS spring conference where the winner will make a short presentation. The winner must also attend the Evening of Excellence Award Dinner in Helena in June and has the option of attending the 2026 NREA conference. Expenses are also paid for attending these events.

If you would like to nominate a teacher whom you believe deserves this award, please complete the enclosed application and forward it to the County Superintendent of Schools in the county where the individual being nominated is presently teaching.

All applications are due as hardcopy form or electronic form to the selection committee chairman by 5:00 on January 31, 2026. The selection of the Montana Rural Teacher of the Year will be completed by February 7, 2026. The 2025 selection committee chairman is Heather Gibson. Email submissions to Heather at gcsupt@midrivers.com.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local County Superintendent of Schools or the president of the MACSS as listed in the School Administrators of Montana (SAM) web site. Thank you for your assistance in our efforts to recognize the outstanding work of Montana's rural educators.

Montana Association of County Superintendents of Schools

2025 Rural Teacher of the Year Cover Page

TYPE OR PRINT

Name of Nominee: _____ Home Telephone: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____

School Name: _____ School Telephone: _____

School Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Number of students in Nominee's School District

Number of students in Nominee's School Building

Subjects and grade levels taught: _____

Years in present position: _____ Years of teaching experience: _____

Name of principal (if applicable) _____

Name of your County Superintendent of Schools:

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address, telephone, and date of birth) may be shared with all persons interested in promoting the MACSS Rural Teacher of the Year Award program. If selected as the 2025 MACSS Rural Teacher of the Year, I will commit to attend the following events: 1) The MACSS convention awards program AND 2) The Evening of Excellence 2026 Award Dinner held in Helena in June. I also understand that MACSS will sponsor me to attend the 2026 NREA conference if I choose to do so. Substitute teacher, travel, room and meal expenses for these events will be paid by the MACSS upon receipt of valid expense receipts/vouchers.

Signature of Nominee

Date

MACSS RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Application Sections

1) Nominator's Recommendation:

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. Length: Maximum of one page.

2) Other Letters of Recommendation:

Five letters of recommendation are required and only five will be accepted in addition to the nominator's recommendation. The five letters of recommendation should be written by a person in each of the following categories: Administrator, Teacher, Community Member, Parent, and Student. Each letter is limited to a maximum one page.

3) Background

Describe background, experiences, and activities related to the applicant's exceptional performance in the educational system/building or district. This could include biographical information, educational background, action photos, awards, honors, community recognition, etc. Maximum of two double-spaced pages.

4) Response to Questions:

Address the following questions focused on specific parts of educator's work using specific examples and information which demonstrate how well the applicant fulfills the expectations under each of the following categories. (There is one question per page for a total of four questions on the pages that follow.)

Questions to be completed jointly by the nominator and the nominee:

Impact on Student Success / Student Achievement:

1. How has the applicant incorporated creativity and innovation in their classrooms?
2. How has the applicant demonstrated his/her care for students? Examples might be sponsoring activities outside the classroom and other non-classroom interaction with students.

Collaboration:

1. How has the applicant demonstrated that he/she is a teacher who collaborates with fellow educators, parents, families, and the community in an effort to improve teaching and learning, and fosters collaboration and teamwork among students and the rural community?

Continuous Learning:

1. How is this individual's commitment to lifelong learning being demonstrated in the form of participation in professional development programs to enhance content knowledge, assisting other faculty with professional development, and/or enabling community activities that provide learning experiences for working adults, senior citizens, parents, etc.?

Leadership:

1. How has the applicant's leadership in the educational community impacted the school district and the community? Examples could be creating links between the school and community and service to the community.

School District Administrator and/or County Superintendent Review:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Office Address: _____ Office Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

If this nominee is selected as the MACSS Rural Teacher of the Year, he/she will be released from classroom responsibilities to attend the spring MACSS conference. He/she may also be released as his/her availability allows during the year of that recognition, to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor of being the MACSS Rural Teacher of the Year.

In signing this I acknowledge that I have reviewed this application and am submitting it to MACSS with the following recommendations:

Date: _____

Signature of County Superintendent of Schools

Date: _____

Signature of Chairman of the School Board

Date: _____

Signature of Principal if applicable