

Saint Louis School Counselor Association Professional Recognition Process

Step 1

Nominate someone for *Counselor of the Year* or *Advocate of the Year* by completing the [SLSCA Professional Recognition Nomination Form](#). Get started today because the entire process needs to be completed by January 2, 2026.

Counselor of the Year Criteria: [Scoring Rubric](#)

- A. Nominees for “Counselor of the Year” must be responsible for innovations in a school counseling program, for providing leadership in the further development of an existing school counseling program, and/or for performing outstanding service to the school community.
- B. The individual must be a current member of St. Louis School Counselor Association (SLSCA). It is strongly recommended they be a MSCA and ASCA member, but not required. The counselor must be a MSCA member if they are awarded at the regional level and nominated for the state award.
- C. Nominees must be certified 3 years as a school counselor and employed as a full time school counselor for at least 3 years after certification.

Advocate of the Year Criteria: [Scoring Rubric](#)

- A. Nominee for the “Advocate of the Year” must provide exemplary support of school counseling services, outstanding promotion of school counseling services, implementation of new/additional school counseling services and/or improvement of existing school services.
- B. The nominee may be a principal, superintendent or other district personnel, school board member, parent, teacher, community leader, or organization who has consistently made a significant contribution to the improvement of school counseling service in the school setting.

Step 2

Professional Recognition Chair sends an email notification to the nominee and nominator.

Counselor/Advocate of the Year Nomination Notification Email:

Congratulations! You have been nominated by _____ for the Saint Louis School Counselor Association (SLSCA) Counselor of the Year award/Advocate of the Year award. We appreciate everything you have done for the school counseling profession and the students you serve. Your nominator had this to say about you: (responses will be sent)

In order to complete the application process, you will need to complete the following and submit it by January 2, 2026:

- Complete the [SLSCA Counselor of the Year Nominee Information Form](#).
- Email a copy of your certificate to the SLSCA Professional Recognition Chair, Sara Luesse at luesse.sara@wgmail.org

- Work with your nominator to ask an administrator, teacher, counselor, parent, and up to three students to complete an online recommendation on your behalf (see Step 3).

Step 3

Counselor of the Year Online Recommendations

Nominator and/or nominee work together to ask one administrator, counselor, and teacher to complete the [Staff Recommendation Form](#). One parent should complete the [Parent Recommendation Form](#) and up to three students to complete the [Student Recommendation Form](#).

Sample emails to an administrator, counselor, teacher and parent are provided for you below:

Administrator, Counselor, Teacher Email:

_____ nominated me for the Saint Louis Suburban School Counselor Association (SLSSCA) Counselor of the Year award. I would be honored if you would help me with the nomination process by completing the [Staff Recommendation Form](#) and submitting it by November 15. If you have difficulty opening the form visit the [SLSSCA Professional Recognition](#) page. Please let me know when you submit the form or if you will not be able to complete the form. Thank you for your support!

Parent Email:

_____ nominated me for the Saint Louis Suburban School Counselor Association (SLSSCA) Counselor of the Year award. I would be honored if you would help me with the nomination process by completing the [Parent Recommendation Form](#) and submitting it by November 15. If you have difficulty opening the form visit the [SLSSCA Professional Recognition](#) page. Please let me know when you submit the form or if you will not be able to complete the form. Thank you for your support!

Student Email: (Depending on the age of the student, you might need to ask their parent to help them complete the form.)

_____ nominated me for the Saint Louis Suburban School Counselor Association (SLSSCA) Counselor of the Year award. I would be honored if you would help me with the nomination process by completing the [Student Recommendation Form](#) and submitting it by November 15. If you have difficulty opening the form visit the [SLSSCA Professional Recognition](#) page. Please let me know when you submit the form or if you will not be able to complete the form. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions about the Professional Recognition process, please email the SLSCA Professional Recognition Chair, Sara Luesse, at luesse.sara@wgmail.org

Advocate of the Year Online Recommendations

Nominator and/or nominee work together to ask up to four people to complete an online recommendation on your behalf. The recommendations can be from an administrator, teacher, or counselor. A sample email is provided for you below.

Administrator, Counselor, Teacher Email:

_____ nominated me for the Saint Louis School Counselor Association (SLSSCA) Advocate of the Year award. I would be honored if you would help me with the nomination process by completing the [Advocate Recommendation Form](#) and submitting it by November 15. If you have difficulty opening the form visit the [SLSCA Professional Recognition](#) page. Please let me know when you submit the form or if you will not be able to complete the form. Thank you for your support!

Step 4

The SLSSCA Professional Recognition Committee will use the [Counselor of the Year](#) or the [Advocate of the Year](#) scoring rubric to select the recipient.

Step 5

All nominees will be notified of the results and receive an official invitation to the Professional Recognition Ceremony by January 16, 2026. The Professional Recognition Ceremony will be held during National School Counseling Week which is the first week in February. Visit the [SLSCA website](#) for the date, time, and location.

Questions? Please contact the Professional Recognition Chair:

Sara Luesse
314-698-3217
luesse.sara@wgmail.org