

Hello Evaluation Configurators:

Headlines:

- [DUE](#): September Deadlines
- [NEW](#): TEAM Resources
- [JOIN](#): Office Hours
- [RECOGNITION](#): 2025-26 Excellence in Education

Key Deadlines for August ([TEAM Timeline](#))

*Be sure to check the [TEAM website](#) regularly for updates.

Date	Action	Owner	Resources	Contact
September 3, 2025, 5:00 PM CT	Team evaluator recertification process closed at 5:00 p.m. CT.	Evaluation Configurators Evaluator	Enroll in TEAM Training TEAM-TN	TEAM.Questions@tn.gov
Sept. 26, 2025	Complete portfolio teacher rostering.	Portfolio Leads Evaluation Configurators	Portfolio Resources TEAM-TN	Portfolio.Questions@tn.gov

TEAM Resource Spotlight

TEAM Resources Added
<p>Music Educators Observation Guidance - designed to support evaluators in effectively observing instructional practice in music classrooms. Because music instruction often looks and sounds different from traditional classroom settings, this document highlights key considerations for evidence collection during pre-conferences, observations, and post-conference preparation while reinforcing that the TEAM rubric applies across all content areas. By clarifying nuances unique to music instruction, this guidance promotes stronger communication between educators and evaluators and supports high-quality instruction that leads to improved student outcomes.</p> <p>Planning Domain The Third Volume of TEAM Best Practices Video Library is now available. Our video library features a collection of engaging, practical, and thought-provoking videos covering a wide range of subjects and grade levels. Each TEAM indicator of the Planning Rubric is unpacked descriptor by descriptor with video examples of what that practice looks and sounds like in action. Accompanied by a facilitator preparation guide, these videos are designed for use as individual professional development, as part of a PLC, or in a large group setting. Each video spotlights one of our esteemed Tennessee Teachers, giving teachers and leaders a chance to learn directly from the best in the field.</p>

TNCompass Resource Spotlight

TNCompass Resources

[TNCompass Evaluation Data Management Guide](#) provides evaluation configurators with the tools for ensuring all evaluation requirements for public schools and public charters are met per State Board of Education (SBE) policy 5.201 and rule 0520-02-01.

Office Hours

Office Hours

The Educator Effectiveness team has redesigned the monthly office hour meetings for the 2025-26 school year. On the third Thursday each month there will be an opportunity for evaluation configurators and portfolio leads to join an office hour to ask questions pertaining to key components of implementation processes, resources, and deadlines. The office hours will not be recorded during the 2025-26 school year. PowerPoints from prior years will be available for reference on the TEAM website [Office Hours | TEAM-TN](#).

September Office Hours for the following roles on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Evaluation Configurator	10:00 a.m. CT	Join the meeting
Portfolio Lead	1:00 p.m. CT	Join the meeting

Educator Recognition

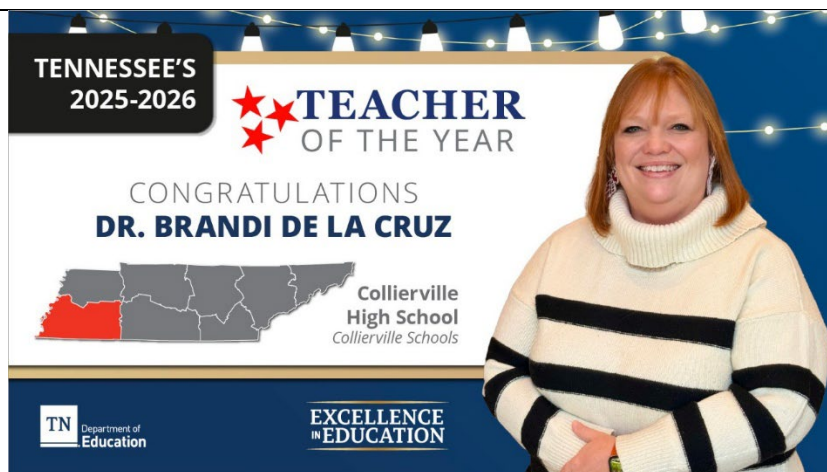
Recognition

2025-26 Excellence in Education

The Tennessee Department of Education announced Dr. Brandi De La Cruz as the 2025-26 Tennessee Teacher of the Year at the department's Excellence in Education celebration.

Dr. De La Cruz is a math instructor at Collierville High School in Collierville, TN.

Congratulations, Dr. Cruz!!!!



During the event, the department also recognized three Teacher of the Year finalists, representing each of the grand divisions.



The department also announced the Novice Tennessee Teacher of the Year Awardees, which celebrates and recognizes excellent novice teachers in Tennessee.



Additionally, the department announced the inaugural Aspiring Educator Award, which recognizes an exceptional high school student pursuing Teaching as a Profession course work.



Congratulations to all of the awardees!!!

The 2026-27 Recognition Season has launched!

Open Now!! Nominations are open for the following programs:

- [2025-26 RISE \(Recognizing Inspiration School Employees\)](#) * - An award recognizing Classified Staff – **Due Sept 22, 2025**
- [Teacher of the Year](#) - **Nominations Due Dec. 5, 2025**
- [Principal of the Year](#) - **Nominations Due Dec. 15, 2025**
- [Supervisor of the Year](#) - **Nominations Due Dec. 15, 2025**
- [Novice Teacher of the Year](#) (teachers in years 1-3) – **Nominations Due Dec. 5, 2025**
- [Exemplary Educator Recognition Program](#) (formerly known as the Talent Pool)- **Nominations due May 11**

Coming Soon!!

- Aspiring Teacher of the Year (new award for Teaching as a Profession Students)

*TDOE is transitioning many of the recognition programs forms to a new platform: Submittable. This platform does require each user to create an account prior to submitting the form. For any troubleshooting creating an account, please refer to [this](#) document from the platform. Please note, by creating an account, this allows for the nominator to save and return to the form at a later date.

If you have any questions regarding these programs, please email Sarah.Brown@tn.gov.



The previous 6 months of evaluation configurator emails can be found on the [TEAM website](#). To see past emails, visit the homepage and scroll down to "Monthly Emails."

Thank you for all that you do to support Tennessee's students and teachers!

Best,



TEAM.Questions

Educator Effectiveness

Office of Academics

Andrew Johnson Tower, 9thth Floor

710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243

TEAM.Questions@tn.gov

tn.gov/education