

Benefits of the National Principal Association's Assistant Principal of the Year and Principal of the Year Programs

Benefits at a Glance

Note: All state POYs and APOYs must have an active National Principals Association membership to be eligible for national recognition and any of the following benefits.

Category	Benefit
Recognition	This once-in-a-lifetime honor celebrates school leaders who exemplify excellence and impact. Honorees are recognized alongside top principals from across the country at the National Education Leadership Awards (NELA)—the premier event spotlighting educational leadership, held each April. They receive national recognition on principals.org, a custom award, and yearlong features across National Principals Association's publications and digital platforms. For our national winners, for a full year, the spotlight is on their leadership, their story, and their voice.
Professional Growth	Honorees gain access to exclusive leadership events, national conferences, and private webinars, connecting with other top school leaders shaping education. They also receive free registration to a premier National Principals Association event (by invitation) during their year of recognition. They may also be invited to be featured as thought leaders, influencing the national conversation on school leadership. National winners receive additional perks such as free lodging and/or travel for invite-only events.
Networking	Honorees join an exclusive network and a private community of POY and APOY alumni, a distinguished group of current and former honorees. This lifelong network supports idea exchange, leadership development, and career growth—well beyond the recognition year. Finalists and winners may receive an early invitation to co-facilitate networks and communities.
Advocacy	Honorees receive advocacy and storytelling training, with personalized support from the National Principals Association staff to speak on education policy and represent peers at national events, in media, and with policymakers. National winners get priority access to advocacy opportunities.
Media Exposure	With the backing of the National Principals Association's communications team, honorees receive strategic support to highlight their accomplishments in national, state, and local media. Coverage includes press releases, education outlets, and social media features—all helping to amplify their impact and reach. National winners may receive immediate national media exposure following the public announcement of their award.



Being selected as a National Principals Association POY or APOY is more than a title. It's a national spotlight on a school leader's leadership, school, and state education.

Past Honorees Have Also...

- Met with U.S. Department of Education leaders
- Presented at national conferences like SXSW EDU and Learning Forward
- Been recognized on field at the College Football Playoff National Championship game
- Hosted National Principals Association Leadership Network meetings
- Been featured in Principal Leadership magazine and Education Week
- Met with congressional leaders at national advocacy conferences
- Influenced local and national education policy
- Gained greater consideration for or promotions to district or state leadership roles
- Built lifelong professional networks
- Mentored emerging school leaders

Learn More or Nominate

Website: principals.org/poy and principals.org/apoy

Email: recognition@principals.org

Phone: 703.860.0200