



2027 ASCA School Counselor of the Year

Each state/territory association submits one state winner. From the state award winners, the review committee will select the finalists and the 2027 School Counselor of the Year. All School Counselor of the Year honorees will be notified regarding details about the 2027 celebration after the selection process is complete.

- ❖ State/territory school counselor associations submit SCA award winner.
- ❖ The state/territory associations that use the ASCA provided online awards system should “push” the application to ASCA.
- ❖ The state/territory associations that do not use the online portal must nominate their winner at schoolcounselorawards.org/nominate. ASCA will contact these individuals regarding the application process.

Timeline

March. 4, 2026	Nomination period officially opens.
May 26, 2026	Applications or names of state winners due to ASCA.
Aug. 15, 2026	Applications finalized.
Oct. 2026	Finalists selected.
Nov./Dec. 2026	Finalists participate in face-to-face interviews with the selection committee. School Counselor of the Year selected.
Jan./Feb. 2027	School Counselor of the Year activities

Eligibility

The applicant must

- A. Be employed as a full-time, practicing school counselor on Oct. 1, 2026 and have completed at least three years as a practicing school counselor.
- B. Hold a master's degree in guidance and counseling or equivalent and be certified as a school counselor by the state, district or U.S. territory.
- C. Be an ASCA professional member as of Oct. 1, 2026.
- D. Be submitted by a state school counselor association; and must reside and/or work in that state as of Oct. 1, 2026.
- E. May not be a current member of the ASCA Board of Directors as of Oct. 1, 2026.

**If an applicant's eligibility status changes after Oct. 1, 2026, ASCA reserves the right to withdraw the applicant from the School Counselor of the Year process.*



Review Criteria

The applicant

- A. Must demonstrate evidence of implementation of a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program (such as the ASCA National Model) and have been responsible for school counseling innovations or further development of programs supporting students' academic, career, and social/emotional development.
- B. Must demonstrate leadership and collaboration in his or her work and promote equity and access to opportunities and rigorous educational experiences for all students to maximize student achievement. Applicants must also demonstrate collaboration with stakeholders. All activities or accomplishments must have taken place within the previous five years.
- C. Must demonstrate continual professional development as well as proof of advocacy for the profession and/or students.
- D. Must have the ability and skills necessary to represent school counseling in a professional manner, including but not limited to high-quality written communication and public-speaking skills.
- E. Should maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and recognize that his/her personal conduct is held up to public scrutiny. Applicants strive to be model citizens of their community as well as the school counseling community and their broader professional community. They maintain high moral standards in their personal and professional conduct.

Review Committee

The selection committee, which is independent of the ASCA staff and board of directors, consists of the current School Counselor of the Year, practicing school counselors, school administrators and representatives from education organizations (e.g. NACAC, AASA: The School Superintendent's Association, NASSP, NAESP, Advance CTE).