



2022 CEC Special Educator Rising Star Award Nomination Information

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is a professional association of educators dedicated to improving the success of children with exceptionalities. CEC accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development.

Award Criteria

The CEC Special Educator Rising Star Award recognizes a CEC member teacher who is in the first five years of their special education career. These individuals must:

- demonstrate CEC's core values, which are:
 - Visionary Thinking: Demonstrated by forward-thinking and courageous decision making dedicated to excellence and influence in an evolving environment
 - Integrity: Demonstrated by ethical, responsive behavior, transparency, and accountability
 - Inclusiveness: Demonstrated by a commitment to diversity, caring, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals
- have the ability to thoughtfully engage students, families and other stakeholders through effective communication and collaboration;
- create a positive, inclusive classroom environment and have a positive impact on students (inspiring learning, building relationships, teaching self-determined behaviors, etc.) **OR** have made notable contributions to the students, classrooms, department, and/or school they serve;
- have shown exceptional potential for leadership in teaching, service, and/or scholarship.

Nominations may be made by an individual or CEC-affiliated organization (i.e., unit, chapter, division, or subdivision). Self-nominations are not accepted.

Award Benefits

The Special Educator Rising Start Award recipient(s) will be:

- invited to attend the [CEC 2022 Convention & Expo on January 16-19, in Orlando, FL](#), compliments of CEC (CEC will cover the recipient's registration);
- recognized with a commemorative plaque at an Awards Ceremony during CEC 2022 Convention & Expo; and
- featured in a press release on the CEC website (exceptionalchildren.org).

Eligibility Requirements

The Rising Start Award recipient(s) will:

- Be a current CEC member at the time of nomination **and** at the time of granting of the award.
- Currently provide instruction to students with exceptionalities.
- Engage in work consistent with CEC's mission statement and core values, as stated above.

Posthumous nominations are not accepted.

Award Selection Considerations

The CEC Honors Committee has the authority to give up to five CEC Rising Star Awards or opt not to grant the award in any given year.

Required Materials

The nomination packet is divided into three sections:

- **Three letters of recommendation** from colleagues, supervisors, or other professionals documenting the nominee's efforts in meeting the award criteria.
- **Three testimonials (limit 100 words each)** from students, parents, or colleagues of the nominee's ability to inspire students or positive outcomes contributable to the nominee.
- **Nominee Resumé/Vita**

Rules and Instructions for Nomination

- All nomination materials must be submitted **by 12:00 pm Eastern, September 8, 2021.**
- The nomination form is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCWWDSM>
- Supporting materials may be uploaded into the online nomination form as PDF, doc or docx files. If you are unable to upload them, please email them to [Sharon Rodriguez](#).
- Please use the file name to clearly label each section and all nomination materials (e.g., "John_Smith_Rising_Star_Award.doc" or Jane_Smith_Rising_Star_Nomination.doc")
- All materials submitted become the property of CEC and will not be returned.

For questions, please contact [Sharon Rodriguez](#).