



RECORDING ACADEMY[™] GRAMMY MUSEUM[®]

Music Educator Award Semifinalist Talking Points

- The GRAMMY Museum[®] and The Recording Academy[®] have partnered to present the Music Educator Award, to recognize music educators for their contributions to our musical landscape.
- The award is open to current U.S. music teachers from kindergarten through college, in public and private schools.
- Anyone can nominate a teacher – students, parents, friends, colleagues, community members, school deans, and administrators. Teachers are also able to nominate themselves.
 - Once a teacher is nominated, they are notified and encouraged to complete the application.
- Kent Knappenberger of Westfield Academy and Central School in Westfield, N.Y. was named the first recipient of the Music Educator Award in 2014.
- The 12th annual award winner will be recognized during GRAMMY Week 2025.
- One winner will be selected from 10 finalists each year to be recognized for their remarkable impact on their students' lives. The winner will receive a \$10,000 honorarium along with a \$10,000 matching grant for their school.
 - The nine finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium along with a matching grant for their school.
 - The fifteen semifinalists that were not named finalists will receive a \$500 honorarium along with a matching grant for their school.
- The initial application was developed using best practices from respected practitioners and other sources. Submitted applications are electronically scored based on a weighted point system. There are several questions that gave teachers who use different modalities and teaching philosophies the opportunity to do well. The top scorers were named quarterfinalists and asked to submit additional materials.
- Semi-finalists are chosen after supplemental material submissions go through a series of Screening Committee reviews. A Blue Ribbon Committee will select up to ten finalists and recommend one of these to be recognized during GRAMMY Week activities.
- Nominations and applications for the 2026 Music Educator Award are now open at grammymusicteacher.com.