



NAESP NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL™ PROGRAM

A Program to Recognize Excellence in School Leadership

2026 NOMINATION APPLICATION

Nominee's Name _____

Nominee's School _____ Grade Configuration _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

School Type: Urban Suburban Rural Small Town School Enrollment _____

Total Number of Years as a Principal _____

Nominator's Name _____

Nominator's Phone _____

Nominator's Email _____

Relationship to Nominee _____

Please read requirements for official application carefully:

Award Criteria

The nominee:

- Has been a member of NAESP for at least one year at the time of nomination and will maintain membership through the conclusion of the NAESP NDP Award Ceremony;
- Is an active principal of a school in which a commitment to excellence is clearly evident;
- Has been an active principal for at least five years;
- Will remain in active service in a position of school leadership during the school year in which he/she will serve as NDP;
- Shows a strong commitment to the principalship through active membership in professional associations;
- Is respected by students, colleagues, parents, and the community at large;
- Assumes an active role in his/her community, distinguishing himself/herself as a leader in civic, religious, or humanitarian activities;
- Shows strong educational leadership by setting high expectations for school staff and students; and
- Maintains an orderly, purposeful learning environment.

If you are interested in applying or in nominating a candidate for the National Distinguished Principal™ award, please complete this form along with an attached letter (not to exceed two pages) identifying the strengths and skills that you feel make the candidate eligible for this award. **Please check with your state principal's affiliate or sponsoring organization to determine deadlines for submission or any additional state requirements.**

Successful candidates will be required to complete the formal application form upon notification from their state or sponsoring organization's selection committee.

Nominator's Signature

Date

Supervisor or Employer's Signature

Date

Return completed Nomination Application to *your state principals' organization or your sponsoring organization*. Your state affiliate principals organization's address can be found at naesp.org.