

# **THOSE WHO EXCEL EDUCATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

## **2025-2026**

### ***CALL FOR NOMINATIONS***

The THOSE WHO EXCEL Education Awards is an Illinois State Board of Education program that honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to education.

Those Who Excel is sponsored locally by the REA and the Rockford Public Schools.

Everyone knows school district employees who are outstanding. Help us to recognize individuals who Excel, go above and beyond in their jobs by nominating that person to be honored. By nominating an individual, you can honor them and let the public know of the positive people and activities in our schools.

Those Who Excel honors people in seven categories: classroom teacher, administrator, licensed support personnel, non-licensed personnel, school board member/community volunteer, early career educator (2nd -5th year teacher), and team (5 or fewer people with a unique program).

#### **Instructions:**

1. Nominees (except volunteers) and Nominators must be employees of District #205 or contracted employees. Teachers must be REA members. Complete and return electronically the on-line Nomination Form. The Link for nomination forms can be found at REA website. REAIEA.COM
2. On the nomination form you will be asked 5 questions about how your nominee excels at their job. ***Please complete ALL questions. The scoring is based on the content of the answers as well as the quality of writing.***
3. The deadline to submit nomination forms is 11:59pm Thursday, **February 13, 2026.**
4. Inform the person you are nominating them. Once the nomination is received you will be sent a signature form to be signed by both the nominator and the nominee. ***We will exclusively use home emails to communicate information.*** Please send the signed forms through the Board Mail to Those Who Excel at the REA Office by **Feb. 20, 2026.** ***We must receive these signed forms to be able to process the Nomination Form.***
5. The TWE committee will introduce the nominees.
6. The nominator and school will be responsible for completing a display board introducing their nominee that will be exhibited at the celebration. Those Who Excel will provide the display board. More detailed instructions will be provided to complete the display board.

(Over)

7. Celebration information will be sent to each nominator in early March. The nominator is responsible for collecting reservations and money from their school for the celebration.

For questions or more information contact:

[ThosewhoexcelRPS@gmail.com](mailto:ThosewhoexcelRPS@gmail.com)

Carol Wehmeyer - cell: 815-978-5072 or Kathy Rasmus - cell: 815-871-3948

## CALENDAR 2025-2026

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|-----------------------------|---------|---|
| Thursday, February 13, 2026 | 11:59pm | Deadline to submit nominations on-line.<br><b><u>No late nominations accepted</u></b>   |
| Thursday, February 20, 2026 | 4:30pm  | Deadline to return signature forms to REA office  |
| Thursday, March 27, 2026    | 4:30pm  | Celebration Reservations and monies are due in the REA office.  |
| Thursday, April 16, 2026    | 5:30pm  | Celebration at Tebala Event Center, 7910 Newburg, Rd. Rockford 61108, where all Nominees will be honored and the Excellence in Category Awards announced. Doors will open at 5:30 for social hour, light refreshments and introductions of nominees followed by announcement of Awards. |

