



Clark Public Schools

365 Westfield Avenue • Clark, New Jersey 07066

Joy Donaldson
Supervisor of Preschool

Edward Grande
Superintendent of Schools

October 5, 2026

Dear Preschool Families,

Each year, the state of New Jersey's Department of Education strives to honor educators and support professionals who go above and beyond for students. The Governor's Educator of the Year program highlights staff members through a program that promotes a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride, and brings public attention to the work of outstanding staff members. To that end, there are two awards available in each school in the district: a Teacher of the Year and an Educational Services Professional of the Year.

I am writing to invite you to nominate a staff member you believe deserving of this award. In your consideration, please *refer to the criteria* in the form linked below that includes, but is not limited to the following: methods for meeting student needs, desire for professional growth, community involvement, dedication to the education profession, and rapport with students, parents, and staff.

Because of our partnership with Discovery, in addition to our in-district preschool classrooms, not all of the teachers or staff members who work with our preschoolers are employed by the district. Only staff members who work in district sites (APK and CPA) can receive this award. In addition, only tenured teachers can receive the award in the Clark Public Schools. However, we are inviting all families to consider a nomination if you believe one of our in-district staff members is deserving of recognition, as some of our in-district staff serve all sites (e.g., Preschool Instructional Coach, Child Study Team members, etc.).

Educational services professionals must serve in one of the following capacities to be considered for nomination, and s/he must be employed through the district sites:

Anti-Bullying Specialist	Athletic Trainer	Behavior Specialist
Child Study Team	Cooperative Education Coordinator/Hazardous Occupations	Educational Interpreter (Cued Speech, Transliteration, Oral Interpreting, Sign Language Interpreting)
Guidance / School Counselor	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant	Library Media Specialist
Mathematics Specialist / Mathematics Coach	Nurse (Instructional & Non- instructional)	Occupational Therapist
Paraprofessional/Teacher's Assistant (Instructional only)	Physical Therapist	Psychologist
Reading Specialist / Reading Coach	Social Worker	Speech Language Specialist
Student Assistant Coordinator	Technology Coach	

To nominate a preschool staff member (teacher and/or educational services professional), please complete the form linked [here](#), and email it to [Joy Donaldson](mailto:Joy.Donaldson@clarkschools.org) with the subject line: Educator of the Year. Please complete the form no later than November 12, 2026. Thank you! I look forward to honoring our staff!

Joy Donaldson
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