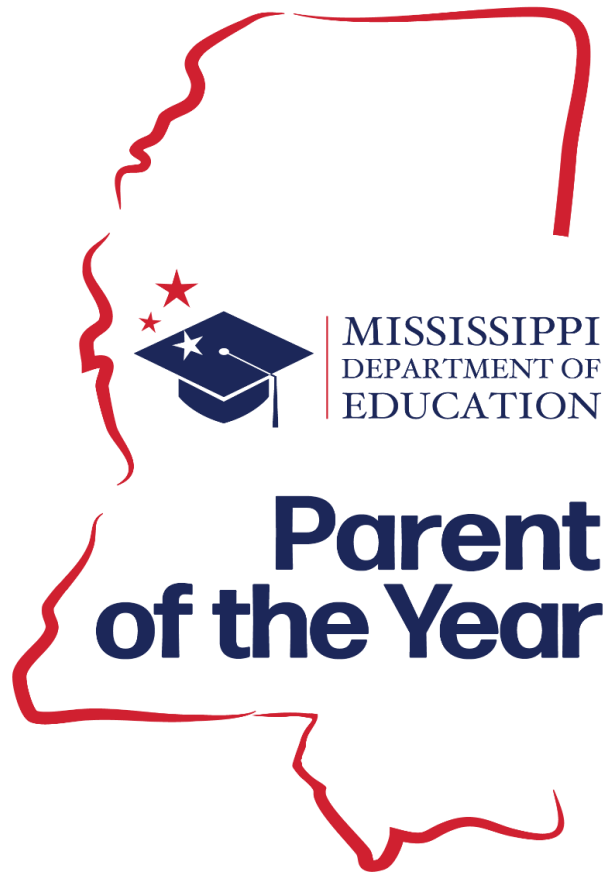


2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year Program Nomination Guidelines



Sponsored by

**Mississippi Department of Education
Office of Teaching and Leading
Parent of the Year Program**

P.O. Box 771 - Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Phone: 601-359-3513

Website: <https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OTC/recognition>



Parent of the Year Program Overview

The Mississippi Parent of the Year (MPOY) Program recognizes outstanding parents who have made a significant commitment to their local school through their dedication to students and their generous gifts of time and other resources. It is the vision of the Parent of the Year Program to elevate student success by honoring parents whose involvement and support contributes to a powerful effect on the success of schools.

The Parent of the Year (POY) candidate should be:

- Actively involved in their child's educational life through activities/projects
- Focused on improving the school and student success
- Member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and supports the association mission
- Active member of the community

Application Instructions

Please complete all sections of the application (Sections 1 – 4). Any incomplete sections on the application will result in a score reduction. All applications should be **typed and not handwritten, printed one-sided not two sided.**

Section I – Application Form

Complete the application form and include the following signatures:

- School District Superintendent
- Applicant

Section II – Personal Involvement

Respond to the question in detail with a maximum of 750 words.

Section III – School Improvement Efforts and Recognition

Respond to the question in detail with a maximum of 750 words.

Section IV – Letters of Recommendation

Attach three (3) letters of recommendation that support why you should be the 2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year. Letters may be from: superintendent, principal, colleague, PTA/PTO president, teacher, student, or civic leader. Letters should not exceed one (1) page in length, double-spaced between paragraphs, and a 12-point font size. Please attach letters to the application.

Submitting Applications

After completing sections 1 – 4 of the application, **submit the application to:**
specialprograms@mdek12.org by January 9, 2025 or you may mail your application to:

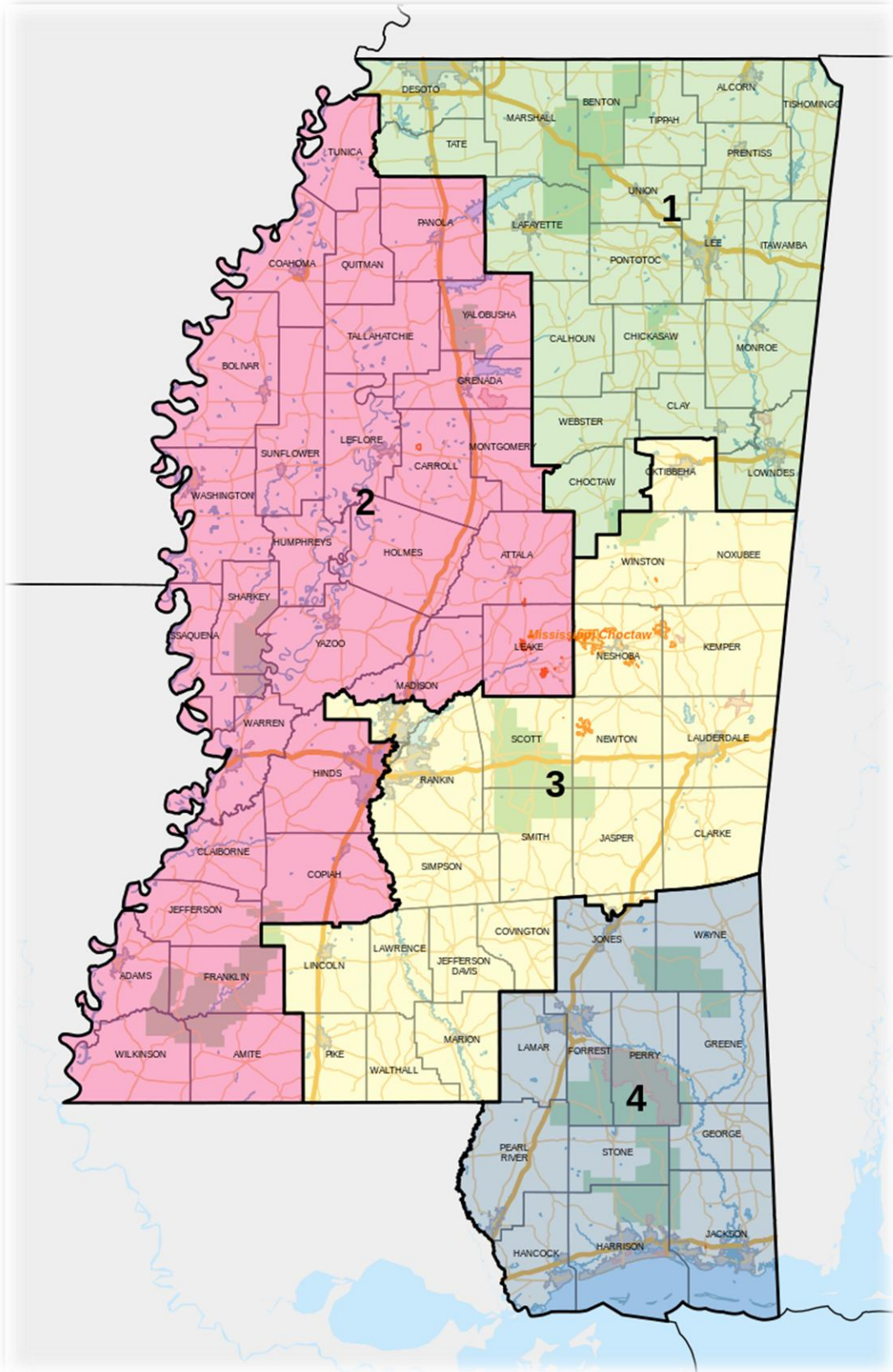
**Mississippi Department of Education
Office of Teaching and Leading
Parent of the Year Program
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205**

For questions, contact Sandra Hilliard at 601-359-3513 or by email: shilliard@mdek12.org

2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year Program Timeline (Tentative)

Date	Activity
October 2024	2025-2026 Parent of the Year nomination application is emailed to district superintendents. The application is available on the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Leading webpage: https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/OTC/recognition
January 9, 2025	Deadline for application submission. Submit the application to: specialprograms@mdek12.org or mail your application to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Leading.
March 2025	The Selection Committee will review district applications.
March 2025	State Selection Committee will meet and choose the congressional district finalists and the 2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year.
April 25, 2025	2025-2026 Parent of the Year is recognized at the Mississippi Administrator and Teacher of the Year Awards Program.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP





2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year Application Evaluation Rubric

Each candidate will be rated on the components of the application. Please use the following rubric as a checklist and guide when completing your application. Incomplete applications will result in a score reduction. Each candidate may receive up to **35 points**.

CRITERIA	LOW SCORE	AVERAGE SCORE	HIGH SCORE	MAX POINTS	SCORE
<p>II. Personal Involvement (maximum 750 words)</p> <p>As a parent, explain why is it important to be actively involved in your child/children’s educational life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why the parent is involved in their child/children’s educational life 	<p>Fails to cover all required areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0-3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	<p>Provides adequate evidence in all areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4-7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	<p>Provides clear and exceptional evidence in all areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8-10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	10	
<p>III. School Improvement Efforts and Recognition (maximum 750 words)</p> <p>Describe your involvement in service-oriented activities such as: funding/grant efforts, community/business involvement, student activities (homeroom activities, PTA, district work, athletics, etc.) and projects, or other voluntary services. Be specific in describing projects, awards, and recognitions (current and past) you have received. For each award/recognition include the title of the award and dates of involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe service-oriented activities such as: funding/grant efforts, community/business involvement, student activities/projects, or other voluntary services (current and past) ○ Title and dates of award/recognition involvement 	<p>Fails to cover all required areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0-4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	<p>Provides adequate evidence in all areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5-9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	<p>Provides clear and exceptional evidence in all areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10-15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	15	
<p>IV. Letters of Recommendation</p> <p>A. Includes three (3) letters B. Why the parent qualifies to become Mississippi’s 2025-2026 Parent of the Year</p> <p>Letters do not exceed one page in length (double-spaced between paragraphs and 12-point font size)</p>	<p>Fails to cover all required areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0-3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	<p>Provides adequate evidence in all areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4-7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	<p>Provides clear and exceptional evidence in all areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8-10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Points _____</p>	10	
			Maximum Points	35	
Tally the points allotted in each section. This is the candidate’s final score.			Final Score		



2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year Application Form

(Please Type)

Section I

Candidate's Information		
Full Name:		
Congressional District: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4		
School District:		
School District Address:		
Home Address:		
Employment:		
Personal Email:		
Cell Phone:	Home Phone:	
Twitter Handle (If applicable):		
Facebook Profile (If applicable):		
Instagram Profile (If applicable):		
Other Social Media (If applicable):		
For Publicity Purposes Only		
Spouse's Name (If applicable):		
Spouse's Occupation (If applicable):		
Children's Name	Age	School or Occupation



2025-2026 Mississippi Parent of the Year Application Form

Section I (continued)

School District Superintendent	
Superintendent's Name:	
Superintendent's Email Address:	
Telephone:	
<i>I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval.</i>	
Signature of District Superintendent _____	Date _____
Parent of the Year Candidate	
Signature of Candidate _____	Date _____

Section II: Personal Involvement (Maximum 750 words)

As a parent, explain why it is important to be actively involved in your child/children's educational life?

Section III: School Improvement Efforts and Recognition (Maximum 750 words)

Describe your involvement in service-oriented activities such as: funding/grant efforts, community/business involvement, student activities (homeroom activities, PTA, district work, athletics, etc.) and projects, or other voluntary services. Be specific in describing projects, awards, and recognitions (current and past) you have received. For each award/recognition include the title of the award and dates of involvement.

Section IV: Submit three (3) Letters of Recommendation