



# 2026 Orange County Teachers of the Year

## Finalists

Catherine	Reinhardt-Zacair	Fullerton Community College	North Orange County Community College District
Darcy	Blake	Ladera Vista Jr. High School of the Arts	Fullerton School District
Erin	Bro	San Clemente High School	Capistrano Unified School District
Jeannette	Aguilera	Centralia Elementary School	Centralia Elementary School District
Megan	Lee	Loara Elementary School	Anaheim Elementary School District
Tracy	Havens	Hicks Canyon Elementary School	Tustin Unified School District

## Semifinalists

Cortney	Nguyen	College Park Elementary School	Irvine Unified School District
Emi	Allen	Courreges Elementary School	Fountain Valley School District
Jeff	Cornelius	Ball Junior High School	Anaheim Union High School District
Kathryn	Setum	George S. Patton Elementary School	Garden Grove Unified School District
Kristine	Cross	Horace Ensign Intermediate School	Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Laura	Coward	John H. Eader Elementary School	Huntington Beach City School District
Rodney	Boaz	Valencia High School	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Sean	Fleshman	Orangeview Junior High School	Anaheim Union High School District
Shelley	Godett	Portola High School	Irvine Unified School District
Susana	Herrera	Century High School	Santa Ana Unified School District

## Nominees- K-12

Alissa	Jeske	Laguna Hills High School	Coastline ROP
Allison	Casillas	Falcon Academy of Science and Technology	Brea Olinda Unified School District
Andrea	Gomez	Dr. Jonas E. Salk Elementary School	Magnolia School District
Carly	Ginter	Coast High School	Huntington Beach Union High School District
Carly	Hayes	Holder Elementary School	Savanna School District
Carrie	Hernandez	Meairs Elementary School	Westminster School District
Christine	Cosand	Imperial Middle School	La Habra City School District
Christy	Jones	Rolling Hills Elementary School	Fullerton School District
Courtney	Doane	Willard Intermediate School	Santa Ana Unified School District
Danielle	O'Steen	Westmont Elementary School	Ocean View School District
Elena	Dull	Orange High School	Orange Unified School District
Garrison Scott	Tarnow	Newport Harbor High School	Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Hoa	Lee	Buena Park Middle School	Buena Park School District
James	Berry	Trabuco Hills High School	Saddleback Valley Unified School District
Jasmine	Poist	La Madera Elementary School	Saddleback Valley Unified School District
Jazmina	Amado	Monroe Elementary School	Santa Ana Unified School District
Jennie	Lee	Frank Vessels Elementary School	Cypress School District
John	Charlton	College and Career Preparatory Academy	Orange County Department of Education - ACCESS
Joseph	Aihara	Western High School	Anaheim Union High School District
June	Hosokawa	Top of the World Elementary School	Laguna Beach Unified School District
Katie	Milano	Kinetic Academy	Charter School
Kristin	Safa	Chapman Hills Elementary School	Orange Unified School District
Kristine	Corder	Rosita Elementary School	Garden Grove Unified School District
Lauren	Hastings	Orange Grove Elementary School	Anaheim Elementary School District
Lindsay	Messner	Newport Heights Elementary School	Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Lori	Avalos	McAuliffe Middle School	Los Alamitos Unified School District
Lynne	Palucki	McPherson Magnet School	Orange Unified School District
Mayra	Rodriguez	Meadow Green Elementary School	Lowell Joint School District
Michael	Walters	Edison High School	Huntington Beach Union High School District
Nathan	Longdon	College and Career Advantage	College and Career Advantage
Peter	Soderin	Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate School	Saddleback Valley Unified School District
Robert	Pulice	North Orange County ROP- Anaheim High School	North Orange County ROP
Scott	Richardson	South Lake Middle School	Irvine Unified School District
Soraya	Espinoza-Perez	San Juan Elementary School	Capistrano Unified School District
Stephanie	Smith	Tustin Connect	Tustin Unified School District
Suzanne	Russo	McGarvin Intermediate School	Garden Grove Unified School District
Tricia	Humphreys	Ladera Ranch Middle School	Capistrano Unified School District
Vicky	Corral	Fairmont Elementary School	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



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*Nominees- Community Colleges*

Anna	Hanlon	Orange Coast College	Coast Community College District
Anthony	Szczurek	Saddleback College	South Orange County Community College District
Damien	Jordan	Golden West College	Coast Community College District
Donato	Martinez	Santa Ana College	Rancho Santiago Community College District
Dora	Escobar	Santiago Canyon College	Rancho Santiago Community College District
Francisco	Perez	Cypress Community College	North Orange County Community College District
Helen	Serrano	North Orange Continuing Education	North Orange County Community College District
Thomas	Cullen	Irvine Valley College	South Orange County Community College District