The prestigious honor, created by Lowell Milken and often described as the “Oscars of Teaching,” has recognized outstanding teachers for more than three decades with unrestricted $25,000 cash prizes. The initiative not only aims to reward great teachers, but also to “Celebrate, Elevate and Activate” those innovators who are guiding America’s next generation of leaders.

Journeying to the 3,000th Milken Educator, in 2024 we will reach $75 million in individual financial prizes spanning the length of the initiative and more than $144 million invested in the Milken Educator Award national network overall, empowering recipients to broaden their impact on the American K-12 profession.

“The future belongs to the educated”

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INDIVIDUAL CASH PRIZE
OVERALL INITIATIVE FUNDING
TOTAL FINANCIAL PRIZES
NATIONWIDE EDUCATORS
EDUCATORS AWARDED
Since 1982, Lowell Milken has led the Milken Family Foundation as chairman, guided by a core principle that “Education is at the heart of nearly everything we value as individuals, as citizens and as productive human beings.” In 1987, Lowell created the Milken Educator Awards to recognize the importance of outstanding teachers and to encourage talented young people to choose education as a profession. More than 40 years of education research, policy and practices have followed, complemented by firsthand visits to thousands of classrooms and the creation of major national initiatives.

**KEY POINTS**

- The Milken Educator Awards is the nation’s preeminent teacher recognition program.
- Educators cannot apply and are unaware of their candidacy due to a confidential selection process.
- Recipients are sought out while early to mid-career for what they have achieved – and for the promise of what they will accomplish given the resources and opportunities afforded by the Award.
- Educators are celebrated at all-school assemblies.
- Recipients gain access to powerful mentorship opportunities among the growing nationwide Milken Educator Network.

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