

MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS

PRESS PAGE 2025-2026

The prestigious honor, created by philanthropist and education visionary Lowell Milken and described as the "Oscars of Teaching," has recognized outstanding teachers for nearly four 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.

The 2025-26 Milken Educator Awards Tour will honor 30 recipients, reaching more than \$76 million in individual Awards spanning the length of the initiative and more than \$146 million invested in the Milken Educator Award national network overall.



**"The future belongs
to the educated"**

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**INDIVIDUAL
CASH PRIZE**



**OVERALL
INITIATIVE FUNDING**



**TOTAL FINANCIAL
PRIZES**



**NATIONWIDE
EDUCATORS**



**EDUCATORS
AWARDED**

LOWELL MILKEN

FOUNDER, MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS
CHAIRMAN AND CO-FOUNDER, MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

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 groundbreaking, 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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www.MilkenEducatorAwards.org