



# 2026 Arizona EL Teacher of the Year APPLICATION

Submit completed nomination/application to [OELASConference@azed.gov](mailto:OELASConference@azed.gov) no later than September 19, 2026 (by 11:59pm). **Please note: Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Questions, please contact [OELASConference@azed.gov](mailto:OELASConference@azed.gov)

### Mission of the Arizona EL Teacher of the Year program:

To recognize educators of English learners (ELs) who provide exemplary instruction and instructional services in support of language development and high academic success for ELs.

### Timeline:

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Completed Applications accepted   | August 2026               |
| • <b>Applications and Files Due</b> | <b>September 19, 2026</b> |
| • Selection panel convenes          | September 28, 2026        |
| • Classroom observation window      | October – November 2026   |
| • Winner notification               | November 2026             |
| • Award presentation                | December 9, 2026          |

2026 EL Teacher of the Year Award presentation will take place at the 2026 OELAS Conference December 9, 2026 | Arizona Grand Resort and Spa in Phoenix, Arizona.

### CRITERIA:

- Presently employed as a teacher, meeting SEI Model requirements, in an Arizona public school (district or charter)
- Currently teaching English learner (EL) students
- Three or more years of successful teaching experience with EL students

### EL TEACHER OF THE YEAR RESPONSIBILITIES MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Sharing knowledge, experience, and skills at trainings and conferences
- Participating in State committee work in area of expertise
- Acting as representative for statewide teachers of ELs



### NOMINEE'S EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

List most recent first.

College / University Attended	Degree Earned

### NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS

Teaching certificate(s)\* held, *if applicable*:

*\*If not certificated, include certificate of completed SEI Endorsement coursework*

Endorsements held, *if applicable*:

Appropriately certified in the following areas:

### NOMINEE'S ADMINISTRATIVE / LEADERSHIP ROLES HELD

Role(s) may be at the district level, at the school site level, at the charter administrative level, or in professional organizations. List most recent first.

Organization	Position/Role Held	Dates

## NOMINEE'S CLASSROOM TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Regarding this school year (2025-2026), I am teaching:** (check appropriate boxes or insert student numbers when asked)

Total # of Students: _____  Self-Contained Classroom: (the same teacher provides the Integrated and Targeted ELD)	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>	Total # of EL Students: _____  <b><i>Integrated</i></b> <i>English Language Development (ELD):</i>	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>	Total # of FEP1 and FEP2 Students (if applicable): _____  <b><i>Targeted</i></b> <i>English Language Development (ELD):</i>	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>
Departmentalized Sections:	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>						

If you are teaching one or more SEI section(s) this school year, please list specific title(s) of each:

**In the 2025-2026 school year, I taught:** (check appropriate boxes or insert student numbers when asked)

Total # of Students: _____  Self-Contained Classroom: (the same teacher provides the Integrated and Targeted ELD)	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>	Total # of EL Students: _____  <b><i>Integrated</i></b> <i>English Language Development (ELD):</i>	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>	Total # of FEP1 and FEP2 Students (if applicable): _____  <b><i>Targeted</i></b> <i>English Language Development (ELD):</i>	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>
Departmentalized Sections:	YES  <input type="checkbox"/>	NO  <input type="checkbox"/>						

If you taught one or more SEI section(s) in the 2025-2026 school year, please list specific title(s) of each:

**Total Number of Years Teaching ELs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Number of Years Teaching:** \_\_\_\_\_

**List only teaching experience with ELs:**

School Year	District / School / Charter	Grade / Subject	Number of ELs
2025-2026			
2024-2025			
2023-2024			
Previous years, if applicable			

### NOMINEE'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

List professional learning you have attended related to English learning. List most recent first.

Institution / Organization	Coursework / Areas of Study	Attendance Dates

List EL presentations, trainings, and/or professional learning opportunities you facilitated. List most recent first.

Audience	Approx. # of Participants	Course and/or Topic	Dates

### NOMINEE'S VIDEO SUBMISSION OR DETAILED LESSON PLAN

**For this portion of the submission, please choose one of the following to submit:**

*\* If you teach both Targeted ELD and Integrated Instruction to ELs, please submit the following from the Targeted ELD portion of your day.*

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Detailed Lesson Plan</b> This plan should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ demonstrate a clear outline of the lesson(s) being taught to ELs</li> <li>○ include evidence and documentation of the Performance Indicators (PIs) from the English Language Proficiency Standards being used                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to teach the Targeted ELD Lesson</li> <li>○ to scaffold the language needs of the content-area lesson**</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ document how you support/differentiate for the varied Proficiency Levels in the class</li> <li>○ document how you plan to use intentional language scaffolds/support for the ELs in the content-area class**</li> </ul> <p><i>** This would <b>only</b> apply if you teach ELs under Integrated Instruction of the SEI Model(s).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Video Recording of a Lesson (no more</b> This recording should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have an introduction with your name, school, district/charter, and grade level being taught</li> <li>○ demonstrate a clear flow of a lesson being taught to ELs</li> <li>○ include evidence of the Performance Indicators (PIs) from the English Language Proficiency Standards being used                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to teach the Targeted ELD Lesson</li> <li>○ to scaffold the language needs of the content-area lesson**</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ provide evidence of how you support/ differentiate for the varied Proficiency Levels in the class</li> <li>○ provide evidence of how you use intentional language scaffolds/support for the ELs in the content-area class**</li> </ul> <p><i>**This would <b>only</b> apply if you teach ELs under Integrated Instruction of the SEI Model(s).</i></p> <p><i>Please know that this video does not need to be formally edited or polished by your district or charter. There will not be any additional consideration made for videos that are finished or polished. The intention is to submit an exemplary lesson being taught to ELs.</i></p>
--	---

**Lesson Submission:** Please email or mail the lesson with this Nomination/Application packet.

**Video Recording Submission:** Dropbox Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/gcoj54h7qjzg3mvyt3md>

**NOMINEE RESPONSES REGARDING CLASSROOM PRACTICES**

Please answer the following questions in 150 words or fewer per question.

1. **How do you use the 2019 ELP Standards in your daily instruction?**

2. **How do you use EL data and other data sources to inform your instruction for ELs?**

3. **How do you differentiate the lesson to support ELs at different English Proficiency Levels (Pre-Emergent, Emergent, Basic, and Intermediate levels)?**

4. **Describe how you ensure and encourage engagement with EL students in your class(es) as well as with their families.**

**NOMINEE RESPONSES REGARDING CLASSROOM PRACTICES (cont.)**

Please answer the following questions in 150 words or fewer per question/prompt.

**5. Is there anything not asked but that you feel is important to share?**

**Please answer the following prompt in 250 words or less.**

As the 2026 Arizona EL Teacher of the Year, you will serve as a spokesperson and representative of a cadre of statewide EL educators. Craft the message you would deliver to address the rewards and challenges of your teaching experiences with English learners.

**NOMINEE LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Submit two (2) letters of support with this application:

- One letter from an administrator / supervisor who did not initiate the nomination
- One letter from a student, parent, or community member

## SIGNATURES

If selected as the 2026 Arizona EL Teacher of the Year, you will be a representative for all educators of English learners across the state for the 2026-2027 school year and in preparation for the 2027-2028 school year. Specifically, you will be expected to contribute to the success of EL educators and students by sharing your teaching and leadership skills at ADE trainings and conferences. It is also possible that you may be asked to author articles describing your teaching successes and educational philosophies. You may be asked to create a classroom video demonstrating your effective implementation of ELD instruction. Additionally, you may be asked to participate in committee work for the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS). We hope that these responsibilities will enrich your own teaching and learning experiences as you contribute to the entire EL community. Please confirm your willingness to accept these responsibilities if chosen as the honoree.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent/Charter Holder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### BEFORE YOU SUBMIT, please ensure the following:

- The classroom data sheet is complete and included with this packet submission.**  
*Link to Excel file for the data submission:* [Kindergarten-Elementary-High School](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2026/06/2026%20TOY%20English%20Learner%20Data%20Template.xlsx)  
<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2026/06/2026%20TOY%20English%20Learner%20Data%20Template.xlsx>
- The entire application is complete.**
- One of the following - Either a detailed lesson plan or a recording of an instructional lesson is submitted.**
  - Lesson plan is included in the email/mailed packet submission; or
  - Recording of the instructional lesson has been submitted to the DropBox link.  
*DropBox Submission Link:* <https://www.dropbox.com/request/gcoj54h7qjzg3mvyt3md>
- Two letters of support are collected and attached:**
  - One letter from an administrator / supervisor who did not initiate the nomination
  - One letter from a student, parent, or community member
- The final section (Signatures) is completed with the appropriate signatures.**

### For a complete submission, please ensure the following:

- Email the completed application, data, and letters of support to [OELASConference@azed.gov](mailto:OELASConference@azed.gov)
- Email the Lesson plan is included in the email/mailed packet submission; or
- Submit the recording of the instructional lesson to the DropBox link:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/gcoj54h7qjzg3mvyt3md>

