



RALEIGH DINGMAN AWARD

2026 Guidelines & Entry Forms

The NCSBA Raleigh Dingman Award is the highest honor bestowed on a North Carolina school board member each year. It is named in honor of Raleigh Dingman, NCSBA's first full-time executive secretary. Since 2003, recipients of this honor have served as an ex-officio member of the NC State Board of Education and the NCSBA Board of Directors. The honoree will be expected to attend meetings of both organizations.

NEW THIS YEAR! NCSBA will honor up to eight outstanding school board members as part of the 2026 NCSBA All-State School Board, recognized during the conference awards ceremony. We encourage nominations from every region of the state to ensure statewide representation.

Please read the Raleigh Dingman Award criteria, eligibility requirements, and nomination specifications outlined below before submitting your application.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

Nominees for the Raleigh Dingman Award should be individual school board members that have demonstrated leadership as evidenced by any or all of the following:

- Upholds board responsibilities with integrity
- Advocates for student achievement
- Provides support for innovative policies, practices, or programs that aim to resolve district challenges
- Engages local government and/or community support for public education
- Attends professional development to gain awareness and knowledge on best practices for public schools, the role of school boards, board member development, and school leadership
- Willingness to exchange ideas, engage in productive dialogue, and advance public education in North Carolina

LEVELS OF RECOGNITION

The Raleigh Dingman Award process includes two levels of recognition:

2026 NCSBA All-State School Board

- Up to eight outstanding school board members, representing regions across North Carolina, may be selected for recognition.
- Regional honorees will be recognized during the conference awards ceremony and receive commemorative recognition.



2026 Raleigh Dingman Award Recipient

- One nominee will be selected as the statewide Raleigh Dingman Award recipient.
- Because the recipient serves as an ex-officio member of the North Carolina State Board of Education and the NCSBA Board of Directors, nominees seeking consideration for the statewide award must be willing and able to regularly attend meetings of both organizations.
- Nominees who are unable to fulfill these responsibilities may still be considered for regional recognition as a member of the NCSBA All-State School Board.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be a current board member
- Served at least one full term on the local board
- Nomination endorsement by school board
- Complied with statutory training requirements for school boards
- Complied with 2-hour ethics training requirements for school boards
- Participated in NCSBA board development activities

NOMINATION SPECIFICATIONS

- A completed entry form which includes a summary statement
- Narrative responses to each of the following questions:
 - Question 1: Describe how this board member has shown exceptional leadership and an ability to work with board members and administration to advance student achievement or address a significant challenge. *Responses should be 350-words maximum.*
 - Question 2: In what ways has this board member collaborated with other local governments and/or community organizations to strengthen support for public education? *Responses should be 350-words maximum.*
 - Question 3: How will this board member's communication style and leadership traits be a positive reflection on behalf of North Carolina school board members on the State Board of Education? *Responses should be 250-words maximum.*
- Evidence of statutory and 2-hour ethics training
- Digital photo of nominee sent as .png or .jpeg file, 300 dpi minimum

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All items listed under the nomination specifications must be received by NCSBA on or before **September 28, 2026.**



RALEIGH DINGMAN AWARD

2026 Entry Form

Name of Nominee: _____

School Board: _____ No. of Years on the Board: _____

AWARD CONSIDERATION SELECTION

Indicate the level of recognition for which the nominee wishes to be considered. (Select one.)

☐ **Statewide Raleigh Dingman Award and All-State School Board Recognition**

The nominee wishes to be considered for the statewide Raleigh Dingman Award and understands that, if selected as the statewide recipient, they will be expected to serve as an ex-officio member of the North Carolina State Board of Education and the NCSBA Board of Directors and regularly attend meetings of both organizations.

☐ **All-State School Board Recognition Only**

The nominee wishes to be considered for regional recognition as a member of the 2026 NCSBA All-State School Board. If selected, the nominee will receive regional recognition during the awards ceremony but will not be considered for the statewide Raleigh Dingman Award.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Provide a summary statement, not exceeding 250 words, on the board member's qualifications for the Raleigh Dingman Award. This paragraph may be used in association publications.

Submit the information below with the completed entry form.

- ☐ Completed Official Endorsement Form
- ☐ Narrative responses to questions 1, 2, and 3
- ☐ Training Record
- ☐ Evidence of 2-Hour Ethics Training
- ☐ Digital photo of nominee sent as .png or .jpeg file, 300 dpi minimum

Entries must be submitted on or before **September 28, 2026**.



RALEIGH DINGMAN AWARD

2026 Official Endorsement Form

This is to certify that the

Name of Board of Education

has taken official action to endorse its nomination of

Name of Nominee

for the North Carolina School Boards Association's Raleigh Dingman Award.

Board Chair's Signature

Print Board Chair's Name