



CABE Strong: United for Equity & Empowered by Our Cultures and Multiplicity of Languages
MARCH 4 – 7, 2026 • SAN FRANCISCO MARRIOTT MARQUIS, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

CABE 2026 Teacher of the Year Guidelines

The California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) honors an outstanding California classroom teacher who has made significant contributions to the education and equity of multilingual and English learner students through excellence, dedication, and advocacy. The winner will be notified on January 15, 2026.

Nomination Criteria

- Must be a current CABE member through April 30, 2026
- Must be a California resident
- Must be a current dual language and/or ELD teacher serving multilingual students (TK-12)
- Minimum of 3 years serving multilingual and English learner students as a bilingual/biliteracy teacher
- Possesses a bilingual teacher authorization (TK-12) or certification
- Has made outstanding contributions to bilingual education
- Has an educational philosophy that reflects multicultural competency and high expectations for multilingual and English learner students
- Evidence of advocacy for bilingual/biliteracy programs and multilingual students

Deadline

All entries must be received via online application by **December 5, 2025, at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)** including all required documents. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Submission Requirements

- A biographical resume that highlights nominee's background, experience, and accomplishments
- A candidate statement (double-spaced, maximum 2 pages) that includes:
 - » Philosophy on education - Describe your beliefs about teaching and learning.
 - » Personal Motivation - Share your reasons for becoming a teacher, with reflection on how your identity, heritage, or lived experience shapes your teaching practice.
 - » Experience as a Bilingual/EL Teacher - Highlight your classroom teaching experience, with specific attention to instructional practices that honor student's home language and cultures.
 - » Inspirational anecdote - Include a personal story or classroom moment that illustrates your impact, transformative approach, or connection with students.
 - » Community Engagement - Describe your involvement in community service, partnership with families and caregivers, or contributions to school and neighborhood initiatives.
 - » CABE Service - Detail any service or leadership roles you have held with the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), such as chapter involvement, event participation, committee membership, or advocacy work.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation, including one (1) letter of recommendation from the nominee's immediate supervisor; one (1) letter from a partner teacher or instructional coach, one (1) letter; and one (1) from a caregiver or community member. (All letters must be dated within one year of the application submission).
- A high-resolution (at least 300 dpi) head-and-shoulders photo of the nominee

Award Package Includes:

- Recognition at the CABE 2026 Awards Luncheon, Thursday, March 5, 2026 in San Francisco, CA.
- An award of \$1,000
- Complimentary registration to the CABE 2026 Annual Conference
- One (1) night hotel lodging
- Two (2) Awards Luncheon tickets (one for awardee and one for a guest)
- A framed certificate of recognition

Nomination for National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)

The CABE 2026 Teacher of the Year will be the California nominee for the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) 2027 Bilingual Teacher of the Year. The California representative, if selected as the NABE Bilingual Teacher of the Year winner, will receive:

- A \$500 scholarship to further their education
- One (1) complimentary registration for the NABE Annual Conference
- One (1) NABE Awards Luncheon ticket
- Air travel to the conference location
- Two (2) nights lodging at the NABE Conference headquarters hotel