

21ST NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS SELECTION CRITERIA NATIONAL BEST LEARNER AWARD



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**National
Teaching
Awards**



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21ST NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS SELECTION CRITERIA

NATIONAL BEST LEARNER AWARD

1. National Best Learner Award

This is a sister award to the **National Best Teacher Award** as it intends to celebrate and compliment an exemplary learner who displays resilience in their journey of learning despite the obstacles that confronts him/her. The award will further highlight the efforts of such extraordinary learners and acknowledge the impact and influence on their peers and society at large. The intended outcome of this award will focus and enable career expansion, successful completion and employment of finalist.

The ultimate goal and vision of the education sector is to provide learners with lifelong learning opportunities, provision of the requisite skills and competences to reflect and share their own views, develop them to be national and global participants, as well as to understand and discuss complex dynamics and relationships of common social, ecological, political and economic nature.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 The award is open to all learners who are registered in any South African public schools(primary and secondary schools);
- 2.2 Learners must have completed projects or programmes that had positively impacted on the improvement/development of other learners. Those projects may have been completed in any type of school in the country including special schools;
- 2.3 Research done or were involved in with others with the focus on a positive impact on the school, community and broader society;
- 2.4 Must supply evidence for the work previously done;
- 2.5 Being involved in any other fellowship programs/sport/ after class programs to support other learners (will be an advantage);
- 2.6 Must be able to showcase resilience despite all adversities and must also show perseverance to growth; and

2.7 Eligible learners must display the following 21st Century skills:

2.7.1 Problem solving skills. Learners must have problem-solving skills which will assist them with the ability to identify problems and finding solutions through applying appropriate skills systematically;

2.7.2 Cross-cultural communication skills. Learners must be willing to function on international platforms, that is, they must be able to operate in diverse situations, with people from different countries, cultures or background to theirs;

2.7.3 Excellent networking abilities. Developing a strong network of connections outside their home, school, community and country will be beneficial. Successful networking will prepare learners and open doors to unexpected opportunities in and outside of the country;

2.7.4 Collaboration. The ability to collaborate and work together for a common purpose is fundamental in the business world. Learners require humility capabilities where they can allow others to take the lead and share credit of success as a unifier, sharing the same vision;

2.7.5 Interpersonal influence. As a country we need to train learners to be respectful towards each other and the country's laws. They must develop good relationships, share good communication skills and practices and build respect towards each other as a pre requisite of patriotism;

2.7.6 Adaptive thinking. Learners must be able to thrive in a complex and ever changing world. This must include taking decisive action in times of danger and uncertainty;

2.7.7 Emotional intelligence. Strong emotional intelligence is a critical skill when it comes to how to do projects. Learners with emotional intelligence are self-aware and in control of their emotions towards stressful environments and situations and are able to be flexible and adapt to the changing environment with a strong sense of empathy; and

2.7.8 Resilience. For learners to succeed in both their academic and non-academic careers, they need to have mental strength and resilience. Practically learners had to have endurance in challenging situations and refrain from opting out before achieving success.

3. National Best Learner Award criteria questions and scores

Selection criteria and the questions:

Criteria	Questions based on general criteria	Max score
1. Contribution to the ethos and morale of the school		
Questions:		
1.1 As a learner how have you motivated/pushed yourself through challenges that could have distracted your own learning, how have you maintained discipline and act responsibly using your personal learning abilities?		5
1.2 How do you motivate and inspire your classmates, other learners, peers and the school community in programmes that unify the school?		5
2. Problem solving skills		
2.1 What are/were the adversities/ barriers that you had to overcome to be where you are now and how did you achieve your goals despite your adversities. Focusing on the 2 of the options listed below:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health/socio economic disadvantages; • Discrimination/ frequent relocation; • Family difficulties; • Environmental disasters; and • Poverty and others. 		5
3. Excellent networking capabilities - Future focused education		

Criteria	Questions based on general criteria	Max score
<p>Learners must be passionate about the future of global co-operation which includes working on joint assignments/projects with other countries. Candidates should have taken an active role in fostering cultural understanding, breaking down barriers, fighting ignorance on global issues, and using online platforms to share resources, information, and expertise.</p> <p>3.1 Explain how you feel about global co operations in general, and tell us more about joint assignments/projects you were involved/would like to be involved in that include people in and across the borders of the country. What positive impact of the specific assignment/project?</p> <p>3.2 Explain how you help learners to become national/global citizens through providing them with a values-based education that equips them for a world where they will potentially live, work and socialise with people from many different nationalities, cultures and religions.</p>		5 5
4. Collaboration. Contribution to co- and extra-curricular activities in the school community		
How do you encourage other learners and peers to participate in extra-curricular activities and use the extra-curricular activities for the holistic development of the peers/learners?		10
5. Emotional intelligence		
<p>Leadership roles</p> <p>South African schools have democratically elected learner councils which are legally obliged to establish a representative council of learners in both primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>5.1 What kind of leadership role have you played in your school? If you have never been a member of any council what would you like to change if you are given a chance to be one of the leaders?</p>		10
6. Interpersonal influence		

Criteria	Questions based on general criteria	Max score
<p>Engaging with education stakeholders. Teacher, learner and parents' engagement in education is the key in resolving/improving a learning culture in the country.</p> <p>How would you address any 3 of the following critical challenges of the school system?</p> <p>6.1 Lack of community and parental support;</p> <p>6.2 School absenteeism;</p> <p>6.3 Late coming and high dropout rates;</p> <p>6.4 Bullying and</p> <p>6.5 Gangs and drug abuse</p>		<p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p>
7. Impact on your peers		
<p>Questions:</p> <p>7.1 How have you contributed to other learners' success/completion of their grades by supporting them in the continuation of their studies, tutoring and mentoring your peers, especially for those individuals from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities?</p> <p>7.2 Emotional support:</p> <p>You may have helped other students tackle mental or physical health challenges; engaged in activism to support minority student groups; fundraised for a good cause; or simply carried out individual acts of support, courage, and generosity. Can you please elaborate on that?</p>		<p>5</p> <p>5</p>
8. Resilience		

Criteria	Questions based on general criteria	Max score
<p>Many of today's most exceptional learners may have dealt with gaps in their formal studies that is beyond their control, taken on responsibilities such as being a carer/guardian, or raised a child while studying. In each case, the candidate's personal journey will demonstrate an indomitable spirit in the face of difficulties that might have stopped others.</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Elaborate on one of the most challenging obstacles that you are/was confronted with and explain the nature of the obstacle, the negative impact it had on yourself and your family, how you dealt with it, the lesson learnt, and how others can benefit from the situation?</p>		10
9. Creativity and innovation		
<p>Learners may have written a novel, recorded an album, have designed an app, built a YouTube channel, recorded a podcast or become a social media influencer. Equally, you may have been involved in creating a social purpose organisation or some other type of service, using new technology or fresh ideas about how to connect people.</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Since the next generation will not only be job seekers, but job initiators. Tell us more about any APP or new technological intervention that may change the lives of people in the new future?</p> <p>If you invent or participate in the creation of any album (music) /wrote a novel, design a YouTube educational channel or initiate a social purpose project/ program that will influence the youth in any way, we would like to hear about it?</p>		5 5
<p>10. Professionalism in learning</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Changing the curriculum</p> <p>Given an opportunity what would be your input or what would you like to change in the curriculum and what would you like the government or the education sector to include in the curriculum</p>		5

Criteria	Questions based on general criteria	Max score
SUB TOTAL		100

10. National adjudication process for the three categories.

- 10.1 The DBE NTA steering committee will select and appoint the adjudication panel which will select the three final winners for the National Best Teacher Award and the S/Hero and the Learners award from the nine candidates from all the provinces.
- 10.2 The appointed jury will comprise of public officials, head teachers, academics, journalists, entrepreneurs, company directors, scientists and the officials from the auditing firms outside of DBE. The final scores for the three (03) candidates from each category will be forwarded to the Minister and the Deputy Minister. They will then make a final determination of the winners after scrutinising the responses and scores.
- 10.3 The diverse experience and expertise fields of the jury, will ensure that the criteria for judging will assist in showcasing best practices not only in individual schools, but the possibilities in the country. It will enable the sector to share innovations, technological infusion in curriculum delivery, and diversification in all practices and build the confidence of SA teachers to compete in all Global Awards.
- 10.4 To ensure fairness and transparency, the process will involve the checking of performance by auditors. The auditors will monitor the processes for entry evaluation, manage the prize committee selection of top finalists, and provide the voting Jury platform.
- 10.5 Secretarial assistance to the Jury will be provided by the national office.

END

NOMINATION AND MOTIVATION FORMS 2021: NATIONAL BEST LEARNER AWARD

Nomination form

- To be completed by the Nomination Team. Note the eligibility and disqualification criteria in the NTA Nomination Guide.
- Nomination Team:
 - 10 School Principals/leaders;
 - 11 School Governing Bodies; and
 - 12 Teachers.
- All forms must be handed in to the district on or before the date determined by the relevant Provincial Education Department.

NOMINATION FORM	
NATIONAL BEST LEARNER AWARD	
First names	
Surnames	
Gender	
Identity Number (Attach a certified copy)	
Name of school/ contacts/ address and school stamp	
Learner Registration Number (if applicable)	
Email address (optional)	
Contact Numbers	
District/Region	

Endorsement: By signing the nomination form, the Principal and SGB/CGB Chairperson endorse the nomination by the Nomination Team.

Signature of Principal		Date	
Signature of Chairperson of the SGB		Date	

Special notes:

- If the Principal or SGB/CGB Chairperson cannot sign for whatever reason, please also provide the information in the table below.
- If the Principal is the nominee, he/she must only sign in the space provided for the Nominee(s) on the Form.
- The SGB/CGB of the Nomination Team must agree on a person who will sign on behalf of the learner.
- If a District/Regional Official is the nominator, the Principal must endorse the nomination.

Name of person signing on behalf of the Learner or Chairperson of the SGB/CGB	
Designation of Signatory	
Statement of Motivation for signing on behalf of the Principal or Chairperson of the SGB/CGB	

Declaration by nominee/learner

I/we declare that the information submitted in the Self/Team Portrait is true and correct.

First Names	Surname	Signature	Date:

Published by the Department of Basic Education

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Telephone: 012 357 3000 Fax: 012 323 0601

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ISBN: 000-0-0000-0000-0

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