

## The Big Apple Awards: *Recognizing Teacher Excellence in New York City* Frequently Asked Questions

Many common questions about The Big Apple Awards are answered below. If you have further questions that are not addressed here, please contact us at [teacherexcellence@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:teacherexcellence@schools.nyc.gov). For more information about this year's program, please [visit the Big Apple Awards webpage](#).

### The Big Apple Awards Nominations

#### Q. Who can nominate a teacher?

A. Anyone – students, parents, teachers, colleagues, principals, community members – can submit a nomination for a current teacher in a NYCDOE district school, a charter school, or in a pre-kindergarten classroom at a community-based early childhood center **by January 19, 2015**.

#### Q. What information is required for a nomination?

A. Please include:

- 1) Nominated teacher's name and subject
- 2) Nominated teacher's school name and borough
- 3) Teacher's email address
- 4) Teacher's principal or education director name
- 5) A brief statement on why your nominee should be considered for the awards (250 words max).

#### Q. What kind of teachers should I nominate?

A. Eligible teachers (see above) who have demonstrated exceptional success in the following areas: (I) Impact on Students' Learning, (II) Instructional Practices, and (III) Professional Contributions.

#### Q. Can I nominate myself?

A. Yes, self-nominations will be accepted.

#### Q. Am I able to nominate more than one teacher?

A. Yes, you may nominate more than one teacher for this award. You will need to submit a separate nomination for each teacher you would like to be considered.

#### Q. Should I submit more than one nomination for any one individual?

A. No, you should not submit more than one nomination for the same individual.

#### Q. Who will see my nomination information?

A. The Big Apple Awards team and review committee will have access to nomination information. It is possible that statements from nominations will be used anonymously for the promotion of the award program.

## **Award Selection Process**

### **Q. What happens after a teacher is nominated?**

**A.** All nominees that meet the eligibility requirements will be notified via email about the honor of being nominated for the 2015 Big Apple Awards. After a review of nominations, a select group of nominees will be invited to complete a more comprehensive application by March. For more information on the nomination process, [visit the Big Apple Awards webpage](#).

### **Q. If I am invited to apply, what happens after I complete my application?**

**A.** All complete applications will be reviewed and Big Apple Awards Semi-Finalists and Finalists will be notified via email. Approximately 100 semi-finalists will be interviewed, of which 40 will be named finalists and receive a classroom visit. The final 10-12 recipients will be announced and honored at a celebration in June.

### **Q. What does it mean to be a Big Apple Award winner?**

**A.** Recipients receive a classroom grant for their students and school. In addition to their teaching responsibilities, they will serve as Big Apple Fellows during the 2015-16 school year. For more information on the Fellowship year, [visit the Big Apple Awards webpage](#).

## **Additional Questions**

### **Q. Who is funding the Big Apple Awards?**

**A.** The Big Apple Awards are made possible by generous support from The Fund for Public Schools. Last year's sponsors also included Lincoln Center, the Centerbridge Foundation, the New York Mets, STATE Bags and Modell's Sporting Goods.

### **Q. Who can I contact if I have any questions?**

**A.** Should you have any additional questions, please email us at [teacherexcellence@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:teacherexcellence@schools.nyc.gov).