



Innovative Teacher Award Finland 2027

Official Nomination Evaluation Guidelines

This document has been created to help you structure your nomination to fit our evaluation criteria. You may also use other formats, but these guidelines will still apply.

Each section is scored independently based on clarity, evidence, and demonstrated impact.

Where possible, include quantitative data, testimonials, or supporting documentation.

We welcome nominations from educators across all educational settings and cultural contexts.

1. YOUR STORY (800 points)

The Narrative of Impact

The Catalyst:

[Insert: Why you became a teacher. Was it a mentor of your own, or a gap in the system you felt compelled to fill?]

The Dedication:

[Insert: Your teaching philosophy. How do you maintain your passion despite the daily grind?]

The Contribution:

I believe I have made an outstanding contribution by [Insert: specific method, e.g., pioneering a blended learning model] that not only taught the curriculum, but also taught students how to think.

The One Achievement:

If I must choose one, it is [Insert: e.g., the “Future Innovators” lab I founded, which resulted in a 40% increase in STEM enrollment].

2. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES (300 points)

Understanding the Environment

School Profile:

My school is situated in [Location], serving a population of [Number] students.

The Obstacles:

My students face significant challenges, including [Insert: e.g., multigenerational poverty, language barriers for ESL learners, or lack of internet access at home].

Health and Social Factors:

[Insert: e.g., high rates of food insecurity or social isolation in the community].

3. YOUR TEACHING APPROACH (300 points)

Methodology and Scalability

The Model:

My approach is rooted in [Insert: e.g., the 5E Instructional Model / Project-Based Learning (PBL)].

Effective & Scalable:

This practice is replicable because it relies on [Insert: e.g., low-cost materials and peer-to-peer mentoring], making it adaptable for schools with limited resources.

4. INNOVATION (300 points)

Extraordinary Practices

The Breakthrough:

I introduced [Insert: e.g., gamified history lessons or student-led podcasts] to move beyond rote memorization.

Technology Integration:

Rather than just using screens, I used technology to [Insert: e.g., connect students with industry experts via live video links].

Soft Skills:

My classroom prioritizes the “4 Cs”: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

5. CLASSROOM ACHIEVEMENT (300 points)

Measurable Outcomes

Test Scores:

[Insert: e.g., average math proficiency rose from 62% to 85% over two years].

Graduation/University:

[Insert: e.g., 95% of my students successfully transitioned to tertiary education].

Behavioral Data:

We observed a [Insert: e.g., 30%] reduction in chronic absenteeism since the implementation of my [specific program].

6. ‘ABOVE AND BEYOND’ — COMMUNITY IMPACT (300 points)

Holistic Support & Community Service

Student Support:

I offer [Insert: e.g., weekly evening Zoom sessions] for students who work part-time jobs during the day.

Community Work:

Outside of the school gates, I am involved in [Insert: e.g., local literacy drives, volunteering at a community center, or writing for the local newspaper on education reform].

7. DEVELOPING GLOBAL CITIZENS (300 points)

Success Beyond Borders

Definition of Success:

Success is when a student recognizes their role in the global ecosystem.

Specific Examples:

[Insert: e.g., participating in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) challenge or a virtual exchange with a school in Spain or Japan].

8. IMPROVING THE TEACHING PROFESSION (300 points)

Elevating the Status of Teaching

Mentorship:

I have mentored [Number] early-career teachers, helping them reduce burnout and refine their pedagogy.

Thought Leadership:

[Insert: e.g., I host a blog, speak at national conferences, or serve on the regional curriculum board].

9. RECOGNITION OF YOUR TEACHING (300 points)

External Validation

Awards:

[List any local, regional, or national honors].

Stakeholder Feedback:

My principal, [Name], noted that [Insert quote]. Students frequently describe my classroom as [Insert: e.g., “the one place where I feel safe to fail and try again”].

10. USE OF FAME (300 points)

The Platform for Change

If named the Most Innovative Teacher, I will use this platform to:

- Advocate for [Insert: e.g., digital equity in rural schools].
- Establish a network for [Insert: e.g., teacher-led innovation workshops].
- Show the world that teaching is not just a job, but a powerful force for positive social change.

Each nomination is evaluated across the following criteria. Judges assign scores based on the descriptors below. Total possible score: 3,500 points.

Section	Points	What Judges Look For	Emerging	Proficient	Exceptional
1. Your Story	800	Authenticity, clarity of narrative, demonstrated impact, personal motivation	Story is present but lacks depth or clear impact	Clear narrative with examples of impact	Powerful, compelling story with strong evidence of transformative impact
2. Context & Challenges	300	Understanding of environment, awareness of student needs, realism	Limited description of context	Clear description of challenges and environment	Deep insight showing strong contextual awareness and responsiveness
3. Teaching Approach	300	Pedagogical clarity, intentionality, scalability	Approach described but lacks clarity or evidence	Clear methodology with examples	Highly coherent model with clear scalability and strong rationale
4. Innovation	300	Originality, creativity, meaningful use of methods or technology	Some new ideas but limited impact	Innovative practices with clear benefits	Breakthrough practices with strong evidence of transformative change
5. Classroom Achievement	300	Measurable outcomes, student progress, data use	Limited or anecdotal evidence	Clear outcomes supported by data	Strong, sustained impact with compelling quantitative and qualitative evidence
6. Community Impact	300	Contribution beyond classroom, holistic support	Limited community engagement	Clear involvement and support activities	Significant, sustained community impact with measurable benefits
7. Developing Global Citizens	300	Global awareness, student empowerment, real-world relevance	General statements about global learning	Clear examples of global competence development	Strong evidence of students engaging meaningfully with global issues
8. Improving the Profession	300	Leadership, mentoring, knowledge sharing	Limited professional contribution	Active mentorship or sharing practices	Significant influence on the profession beyond own institution
9. Recognition of Teaching	300	External validation, testimonials, awards	Minimal recognition	Some formal or informal recognition	Strong external validation and multiple endorsements
10. Use of Fame	300	Vision, feasibility, alignment with mission	General intentions	Clear and realistic plans	Inspiring, strategic vision with strong potential for broad impact