Nominations Now Open:
2027 PASEsetter Awards for Outstanding Afterschool Educators

Extended Nomination Deadline: November 18, 2026 **| Submission Link:** bit.ly/2027pasesetternom

On **Wednesday, February 24, 2027** at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City, **the Partnership for After School Education (PASE)** will host our annual **PASEsetter Awards Benefit**, honoring afterschool educators whose commitment, energy and creativity have had an indelible impact on the children and youth of New York City.

We expect over four hundred people – representatives from the corporate, higher education, media, academic, government, and philanthropic sectors, as well as PASE network practitioners and the PASE Board of Directors – to join in this special celebration and honor five of the city's most innovative and effective afterschool educators.

A PASEsetter Selection Committee will select five PASEsetter Award Winners from the nominations, who will be the guests of honor at the 2027 PASEsetter Awards Benefit. PASEsetters will be asked to make a speech, and their biographies and photos will be shared.

Each award recipient will receive a crystal award and a **$1,000 Cash Award**, a **$4,000 Cash Award** for their agency, 10 tickets to the 2027 PASEsetter Awards Benefit, acknowledgement at a pre-awards reception, and recognition on the PASE website, email list, and social media.

Who is a PASEsetter?

- A staff person at a youth-serving agency in the five boroughs of New York City whose ***primary work*** is directly with young people in afterschool, in the evenings, and/or during the summers.
- Nominees must be paid staff, not volunteers, working either full or part-time and have worked a **minimum of three years (consecutively) at their current agency.**
- A staff person who attended an afterschool program growing up and who is now working in afterschool will be given special consideration by the selection committee.
- No nominations will be accepted from an agency that has had a PASEsetter Award winner within the last three award years (2024, 2025, and 2026). *See FAQ page on p. 3 for list of 2024, 2025, and 2026 agencies.*
- Executive Directors are NOT eligible.

Where must a PASEsetter work in order to be nominated?

PASEsetter nominees must work at either a community-based or school-based afterschool program located in the five boroughs of New York City. This includes faith-based, school-based, privately funded, publicly funded, sectarian and non-sectarian programs.

What qualities does a PASEsetter have?

PASEsetters are afterschool educators who have made a significant impact on youth, families, and communities. They've shown commitment, creativity and leadership when it comes to helping young people succeed. PASEsetters start new initiatives and see them through, while being a role model for their program participants and for other afterschool educators.

What is the PASEsetter Winner selection process?

A PASEsetter Selection Committee, comprised of institutional funders, PASE board and junior board members, and past PASEsetter winners, will review nominations and select the five 2027 winners. Both winners and non-winners will be notified during the week of December 21, 2026.

What criteria does the selection committee use when selecting awardees?

The PASEsetter Selection Committee considers the following criteria when reviewing nominee applications:

- Has the nominee demonstrated consistent dedication to the young people in their agency?
- Has the nominee demonstrated innovation and creativity in youth programming?
- Has the nominee been a guide, listener, and advocate on behalf of youth and their families?
- Have they provided leadership to the youth and/or the community to create positive change?
- Have they collaborated with peers and colleagues in creating and delivering services – and shared this knowledge with others?
- How long have they been in the field?
- Whether they are an alumnus of the afterschool program
- Whether the nominee and their program(s) are representative of the communities served within NYC afterschool spaces
- Number of children impacted by the PASEsetter nominee's work

Can I include photos and other supporting documentation in my nomination?

Yes! PASEsetter nominations have become quite competitive, and most recent winning nominations have included some supplementary materials such as compelling testimonials, photos, or links to incorporate more voices and to more fully tell the story of the PASEsetter nominee. Please include as much supporting documentation and information as you would like to highlight about your nominee. Nominations may include photos, news clippings, links to videos, and testimonials from colleagues, parents, and/or youth participants.

Who can nominate a PASEsetter and how?

Anyone can nominate a PASEsetter. If you work at an afterschool program where you think you have a PASEsetter, **please visit: bit.ly/2027pasesetternom** and complete an application **by our extended deadline of Wednesday, November 18th, 2026.**

Additional questions? Join us for an application clinic!

PASE will hold two virtual application clinics to review the PASEsetter nomination guidelines, answer questions, and offer tips on creating a winning nomination. Join us on **October 5, 2026, 10:00 AM– 11:00 AM (register here)** or **October 23, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 PM (register here).**

Visit **bit.ly/2027pasesetternom** to complete the nomination form.

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Additional Frequently Asked Questions

Can more than one individual be nominated from the same organization?

Yes, but only one person per organization can be selected as a 2027 PASEsetter Award Winner. We would recommend consolidating efforts to present one robust nomination, but if you have several compelling nominees and the capacity to submit thorough nominations for all of them, you are welcome to.

My organization has had a PASEsetter winner in the past – am I eligible to submit a nomination?

Nominations will not be accepted from an agency that has had a PASEsetter Award winner within the last three years. If a winner from your organization was recognized in February 2024, February 2025, or February 2026, a nomination from your organization will not be accepted this year.

- **2024 Agencies**: Global Kids, New Settlement, Read Alliance, UpBeat NYC, Writopia Lab.
- **2025 Agencies**: East Harlem Tutorial Program, Hetrick-Martin Institute, Pockets Change, Queens Public Library, Statement Arts.
- **2026 Agencies**: Brooklyn Children's Theatre, Brooklyn Debate League, KoKo NYC, NIDC (Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation), NYC Mission Society.

Does the nomination have to come from an agency staff?

No, winning nominations have come from both agency leadership/staff as well as community members and colleagues in the larger youth-serving ecosystem. However, *most* winning nominations incorporate perspectives of agency staff and leadership to demonstrate the nominee's impact within their programs and organization.

Can I nominate myself?

Yes, but other people bragging about you often makes a more compelling case. If nominating yourself, we encourage you to incorporate other voices (testimonials from colleagues, supervisors, students, etc.) to position yourself for success.