



OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education
Educator of the Year
**Statement of Educational Philosophy
Notes and Request Script**

Statement of Educational Philosophy: A statement of educational philosophy is a self-reflective narrative of your beliefs about teaching and learning. It conveys your core ideas about being an effective teacher in your subject area and develops these ideas with examples of what the teacher and learners will do to achieve those goals.

The purpose of requesting a statement from the nominee is to give him/her a voice in the nomination process and help the OnPoint Prize Selection Committee get to know their guiding principles, factors of influence and growth as an educator.

How to request the statement from your nominee:

Here are some brief tips to consider.

- Give as much advanced notice as possible. Writing a compelling narrative takes thought and time.
- When you make the request, share information with your nominee about the OnPoint Prize campaign, why you'd like to nominate him/her and the impact the nominee has had in your life or on your school community.
- **Use our script.** The following page contains a script designed to help you present this information to the nominee and request his/her participation. Feel free to use or edit as helpful.
- Sample statements are available to review at onpointprize.com/EOTYguidelines.

How to submit the statement once written:

- The statement of educational philosophy should be submitted with the other nomination materials (for the complete list of nomination materials, see our nomination checklist available at onpointprize.com/EOTYguidelines).
- An electronic copy of the letter is ideal. Accepted file types include: .pdf, .doc, .docx only. Please note Mac files must be converted to Microsoft or Adobe file types.
- Please be sure to use the nominee's last name as part of the file name.
- The statement should be no more than one page typed.

Dear _____,

I have had the opportunity to learn from many educators in my life and I know how much they give to support and develop the students they work with. Your work in particular, has had such an impact on me/our family/our school because:

To thank and honor this tremendous gift in our lives, I'm excited to let you know that I/we would like to nominate you for the **OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education Educator of the Year award**.

Since 2010, OnPoint Community Credit Union has recognized hundreds of deserving teachers and their schools. The award seeks to honor educators who demonstrate outstanding teaching methods and the ability to inspire creativity and enthusiasm in students, parents and their school communities. I hope you can see why to me/us, you are an educator worthy of recognition. The top award is the Educator of the Year's mortgage paid for one year plus a \$2,500 donation for our school.

The nomination requests your participation to provide a statement of your educational philosophy. The goal of this statement is to allow you to share what has shaped you as an educator and may highlight your:

1. Values, beliefs, and goals as an educator
2. Teaching methods
3. Methods of assessing students' learning and/or your own success
4. How you incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into your classroom.
5. How you have adapted your classroom/teaching approach during the COVID-19 pandemic and supported students through distance learning.

I know you have many responsibilities but hope you will be able to make time for this. The response is meant to be open-ended so you can share what you choose. The statement should be limited to one page typed.

Nomination materials are due to OnPoint by Tuesday, April 12. Therefore, it would be helpful to have your statement by _____ (recommend asking for this by April 1).

If you have any questions about the campaign, or would like to discuss this further, I would be happy to meet with you or speak via phone. You can also learn more about the OnPoint Prize campaign at onpointprize.com as well as review sample statements made available there under nomination guidelines.

We are grateful for the opportunity to recognize the meaningful part you play in the lives of so many students and families.

Sincerely,