

McGraw Hill Pathfinder Awards 2026 Contest Official Rules

NOTICE: You must agree to these Official Rules in order to enter the Contest.

1. No Purchase Necessary: NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY MONEY IS NECESSARY TO ENTER. PURCHASE WILL NOT IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF WINNING. All federal, state and/or local rules and regulations apply. Void where prohibited by law.
2. Eligibility: Must be at least 18 years old and a U.S resident to enter. You must be a current instructor at a PreK-12, Higher Education, or Post-Graduate institution in the U.S. to be eligible for entry. Employees of McGraw Hill LLC ("McGraw Hill") and its parent and affiliate entities (collectively "Sponsor") and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate.
3. To Enter: Visit mheducation.com/pathfinder-awards, follow the instructions provided to complete the application process and required questions ("Submission") nominating an eligible educator who meets the criteria displayed on the entry page ("Nominee"). You may nominate yourself. You must completely and accurately submit all required information to enter. The Contest begins at 12:01 a.m. EST on November 3, 2025 and ends at 11:59 p.m. EST Friday 13, 2026 ("Contest Entry Period"). No mechanically or electronically reproduced entries are allowed. We reserve the right to not display content submitted in connection with the Contest at our discretion. If an entrant enters the sweepstakes on the entrant's mobile device, the entrant's wireless service provider may charge entrant for applicable message and data charges. Entrants should consult their wireless service provider regarding its pricing plans prior to participating via a mobile device.
4. Sponsor is not responsible for submissions that are lost, late, stolen, mutilated, incomplete, illegible, damaged, garbled, destroyed, delayed, misdirected or postage-due. Sponsor is also not responsible for any problems or technical malfunctions, errors, omissions, interruptions, deletions, defects, delays in operation of transmission, communication failures, destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. Incomplete non-conforming or illegible entries will be disqualified. Contest materials void if reproduced, forged, damaged, altered or tampered with in any way, if they are obtained outside authorized legitimate channels, or if they contain printing, production, typographical, mechanical or other errors. Multiple entries processed by scripting, computerization, and other mechanical means or otherwise not in compliance with Official Rules will be disqualified.
5. Guidelines and Restrictions: By uploading your Submission, you agree that your Submission conforms to the Guidelines and Restrictions listed below and that Sponsor, in its sole discretion, may disqualify you or your Submission from the promotion if it believes that your Submission fails to conform to the Guidelines and Restrictions. All Submissions must be received during the Contest Entry Period. For purpose of these Official Rules, "receipt" of a Submission occurs when Sponsor's server records the Submission information resulting from entrant clicking the "Submit" button. Any automated computer receipt (such as one confirming delivery of entry) does not constitute proof of actual receipt by Sponsor for purposes of these Official Rules.

Restrictions:

- The Submission must be the original work of the entrant;
- The Submission may not have been previously published and may not have won previous awards;
- The Submission must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity;
- The Submission must not disparage Sponsor, any other person or entity affiliated with the Contest;
- The Submission must not contain the brand names or trademarks of any party,
- The Submission must not contain music, images or artwork not created by entrant;
- The Submission must not contain material that is inappropriate, indecent, obscene, hateful, tortious, defamatory, slanderous or libelous;
- The Submission must not contain material that promotes bigotry, racism, hatred or harm against any group or individual or promotes discrimination based on race; gender, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age; and
- The Submission must not contain material that is unlawful, in violation of or contrary to any applicable laws or regulations.

Permissions:

By submitting any Submission, entrant understands and grants permission for his/her Submission to be displayed in McGraw Hill's promotional materials and featured on McGraw Hill's social media pages. Sponsor is not responsible for any unauthorized third party use of any Submission.

Entrant must have permission from the Nominee and all individuals that appear in the Submission to use their name in the Submission and to grant the rights set forth herein including Section 10 "Participation" and Section 12 "Release". If requested, entrant must be able to provide such permissions in a form acceptable to Sponsor.

Judging Criteria: The judges will evaluate Submissions based on the following criteria:

1. Innovation in Education (Breaking New Ground): Originality in teaching approaches
2. Creativity in Supporting Student Success (Thinking Outside the Box): Addressing challenges and fostering student achievement
3. Positive Learning Outcomes (Impact on Students): Tangible impact on student learning and achievement.

Submissions that are well-written and tell a compelling story about the Nominee will be rated more highly.

6. Judging Phase: The Judging Phase will begin on February 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. EST and end on March 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST. During the Judging Phase, a panel of qualified judges determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion will select three (3) Educators as the winners ("Winners"), one PreK-12

educator, one Higher Education educator, and one Post-Graduate educator, based on the Judging Criteria.

In addition to the Winners, the judging panel will select ten (10) Top 10 Honorees based on their exemplary contributions to education as evaluated by the Judges through the contest criteria. These 10 honorees will receive recognition for their achievements as listed below.

Recognition Details:

- Honorees will be featured on McGraw Hill's corporate materials, including press releases, newsletters, and promotional content.
 - Honoree profiles and accomplishments will be showcased on the official contest webpage and McGraw Hill's website.
 - Honorees may also be highlighted in social media campaigns and other public-facing communications to celebrate their contributions to education.
7. Prize: The Winners will each receive a Prize that consists of: a \$5,000 prize to be awarded via check or direct bank transfer, a plaque or trophy, a 1-hour Professional Learning consultation provided by CAST, Inc., (the "CAST Prize"), and an invitation with a guest to a celebratory dinner with McGraw Hill personnel. Approximate total retail value of each Prize is \$6,400.00.
 8. Prize Conditions: Arrangements for the fulfillment of the CAST Prize will be made directly between CAST and Winner, arrangements for the fulfillment of the monetary award and dinner portion of the Prize will be made by Sponsor. Prize is not redeemable for cash, is non-transferable and no substitution by Winner is allowed. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value at its sole discretion. All fees, federal, state, local or other expenses relating to the use, acceptance and possession of Prize are the sole responsibility of the Winner. Taxes are the responsibility of the Winner. An IRS form 1099 will be filed in the name of the Winner for the retail value of the Prize. Restrictions may apply. Sponsor reserves the right not to award any prize in the event an insufficient number of eligible entries are received, or the judges determine that the eligible entries received are not of adequate quality.
 9. Winner Notification and Acceptance: Winners and their nominating entrants will be notified via email. Winners will be required to provide a physical mailing address for elements of prize to be shipped, execute and return a W-9 along with an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability, and Publicity Release for the benefit of McGraw Hill and CAST, and any other required IRS forms within ten (10) days of receipt or their chance to be considered for a prize may be forfeited. The Prize will be awarded to the authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted electronically. Authorized account holder is defined as the person who is assigned to an e-mail account by an ISP or other e-mail provider.
 10. Participation: By uploading your Submission, you agree that your Submission conforms to the Guidelines, Restrictions, and Permissions (collectively, the "Guidelines") and that Sponsor, in its sole discretion, may disqualify you or your Submission from the Contest if it believes that your Submission fails to conform to the Guidelines. Except where prohibited, participation in the

promotion constitutes consent to the publication of entrant and Nominee's names, biographical information and likeness and participating entry for any marketing, commercial or promotional purpose in any media (including social media), without further compensation or attribution, in accordance with our privacy policy. All Submissions become the property of McGraw Hill and none will be returned. Winner may be required to give McGraw Hill his/her social security number, legal name, age, current address, and phone number for tax record keeping purposes only. By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of McGraw Hill. McGraw Hill reserves the right to disqualify persons found tampering with or otherwise abusing any aspect of this promotion as solely determined by McGraw Hill. In the event the promotion is compromised by a virus, non-authorized human intervention, tampering or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor which corrupts or impairs the administration, security, fairness or proper operation of the promotion, McGraw Hill reserves the right in its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the promotion in whole or in part. Should the promotion be terminated prior to the stated expiration date, Sponsor reserves the right to award a prize based on the entries received before the termination date. Entry in the promotion and acceptance of any prize award is subject to the policy of the entrant and Nominee's employer regarding participation in, and accepting prizes in, promotions. Sponsor is also not responsible for any problems or technical malfunctions, errors, omissions, interruptions, deletions, defects, delays in operation of transmission, communication failures, destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. Incomplete, non-conforming or illegible entries will be disqualified.

11. Release: By entering, entrants and Nominees release Sponsor, its parent and affiliated companies and subsidiaries, their respective officers, directors, employees and retailers, advertising and promotion agencies and all others associated with the development and execution of the Contest from and against any and all liability with respect to or in any way arising from the Contest and the awarding and use of any prize, including liability for personal injury and/or property damage and any claims based on publicity rights, defamation or invasion of privacy. Entrants also agree that the companies participating in the Contest are not responsible or liable for any damage to an entrant's or third party's computer and/or its contents, related to or resulting from any part of this Contest. Void where prohibited by law.
12. Privacy: McGraw Hill respects your privacy. We use your contact information to provide you with information regarding McGraw Hill's and its affiliates' products and services, to fulfill your requests, and to service your account. Your information is located in a secure database in the U.S. and access is limited to authorized persons. For further details about our privacy policy, you can visit our Privacy Center on mheducation.com at <http://www.mheducation.com/privacy> If you wish to opt-out, review your data, or have a question around how we collect and use your information, you can contact our Privacy Office by emailing privacy@mheducation.com, or by sending your information and/or question via postal mail to 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10019.
13. Winner's List: To be notified of the Prize Winners: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, after August 1, 2026 to McGraw Hill Pathfinder Awards c/o Erin Smitherman, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 6th floor, New York, NY 10019.