



George A. Coleman Excellence in Equity Award 2026 Call for Nominations

SERC created this award to honor and highlight extraordinary acts of commitment and courage to ensure all Connecticut students, especially students of color and culturally and linguistically diverse students, are valued and respected in their school experience.

SERC is seeking nominations of individuals, organizations, schools or districts for the 2026 George A. Coleman Excellence in Equity Award.

Criteria (Nominations of students are encouraged)

Award recipients will be selected based on their steadfast and unwavering action in:

- Advocating for children and families of color;
- Galvanizing individuals and coalitions toward equitable action;
- Taking risks in conversation and action regarding issues of equity for racially, linguistically and culturally diverse groups;
- Engaging the diverse needs of members of an education community and reconciling them toward a shared vision; and
- Furthering the exchange of information that affects thinking and effects conviction on matters of equity.

Nominators and awardees will be notified no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2026 via email and invited to attend a recognition award celebration held on the evening of Thursday, April 2, 2026.

A Complete Nomination

A complete nomination package should include the following: a **nomination entry form**, a **letter of nomination** (one (1) page limit), **biography of Nominee** (one (1) page limit), **two letters of support** (one (1) page limit each).

George A. Coleman has infused his values of equity and opportunity within all of his roles in Connecticut education. As an administrator at the CT State Department of Education (CSDE), including two appointments as Acting Commissioner, Mr. Coleman continuously advanced the truth that all children can learn. He has refused to accept educational disparities and has made the most of his positions to advocate for the highest opportunities for all students. Mr. Coleman has also been a critical partner with SERC in advancing an educational system that confronts the impact of racism among children of color and their families.

Instructions for Submissions

Please submit your completed nomination packages to SERC by Friday, February 27, 2026 to:

Heather Dawes, Project Specialist
SERC
175 Union Street
Waterbury, CT 06706

or email: dawes@ctserc.org

Questions? Email or call Heather Dawes at SERC, dawes@ctserc.org or (860) 632-1485, ext.263

2026 George A. Coleman Excellence in Equity Award Nomination Entry Form

Nominations Due Friday, February 27, 2026.

Name of Nominator: _____

Position of Nominator: _____

Employer: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Nominee: _____

School/Community Organization: _____

City/ Town Residence: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

**Nominations Due
Friday, February 27, 2026.**

For full nomination details,
visit: ctserc.org/news
or scan the QR code.



Checklist for Nominators

Date Received _____

1. Nomination Entry Form Completed
2. Letter of Nomination (1 page limit)
3. Biography of Nominee (1 page limit)
4. Two (2) Letters of Support (1 page limit each)

Office Use Only

Date Received _____

Packet Complete? **YES** **NO**

Missing the following:

- Completed Entry Nomination Form
- Letter of Nomination (1 page limit)
- Biography of Nominee (1 page limit)
- Two (2) Letters of Support (1 page limit each)

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Letter of Nomination

Nominations Due Friday, February 27, 2026.

Please include the nominator's relationship to nominee, contributions and areas of involvement of the nominee, and evidence of the impact of their involvement on children and families. (500 word limit)

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Biography of Nominee

Nominations Due Friday, February 27, 2026.

Biography should include a brief history of the nominee. (500 word limit)

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Letter of Support 1

Nominations Due Friday, February 27, 2026.

Letters of support can be from schools, community organizations, or individuals who know of the nominee's active involvement; it should include specific examples and evidence of the impact and contribution made by the nominee to a local school and/or community organization because of their involvement and engagement. (500 word limit)

2026 Parental Involvement Recognition Award

Letter of Support 2

Nominations Due Friday, February 27, 2026.

Letters of support can be from schools, community organizations, or individuals who know of the nominee's active involvement; it should include specific examples and evidence of the impact and contribution made by the nominee to a local school and/or community organization because of their involvement and engagement. (500 word limit)