



Sonoita Elementary School District

Elgin Elementary School

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Daniel R. Erickson, Superintendent

Successfully Empowering Students Diversely Every Eagle Shines

Press Release

April 22, 2026

Sonoita Teacher Named Semifinalist for Arizona Teacher of the Year

Anna Coleman, a dedicated and highly respected teacher at Elgin Elementary School in the Sonoita Elementary School District, has been named a semifinalist for the 2026 Arizona Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF). She was selected as one of only ten educators statewide to receive this prestigious recognition.

Each year, the Arizona Teacher of the Year program honors exceptional educators who exemplify best practices in teaching, demonstrate outstanding leadership, and make a lasting impact on students, schools, and their communities. With over 60,000 public school teachers serving in more than 2,000 schools across Arizona, being named a semifinalist places Ms. Coleman among the very top educators in the state.

“Anna Coleman represents the very best of the teaching profession,” said Daniel Erickson, Superintendent/Principal of Sonoita Elementary School District. “For more than 20 years at Elgin Elementary, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her students, her colleagues, and our community. She leads by example, embraces challenges, and continually strives for growth—not only for herself, but for everyone around her. We are incredibly fortunate to have Anna on our team. She is a true example of outstanding teaching, leadership, and ‘rowing the boat’ with purpose every single day.”

In addition to her impact in the classroom, Ms. Coleman has served the broader community by running a youth center in Patagonia for over a decade, further demonstrating her commitment to supporting and mentoring young people beyond the school day. She was also recently named Runner-Up for Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year, adding to a growing list of well-deserved recognitions.

Ms. Coleman’s selection as a semifinalist reflects her years of dedication, her passion for student success, and her lasting influence on generations of students in the Sonoita community.