HIPPO INSPIRER 2027

REGULATIONS

Inspiring Beyond Borders

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1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The **Hippo Inspirer Award** celebrates teachers who make a meaningful difference in their students' learning journey through their dedication, creativity, encouragement and commitment to education.

Great teaching goes beyond preparing students for a competition. It means inspiring curiosity, building confidence, encouraging progress and helping students discover their potential.

Hippo Inspirer aims to recognise teachers who motivate and support their students, develop meaningful teaching practices, observe and encourage individual progress, and contribute positively to their students' educational experience.

The award is not intended to recognise only teachers whose students achieve the highest competition results or whose schools involve the largest number of participants. It seeks to highlight the educational value of teachers' work, including achievements that may not be reflected in competition scores.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The award is open to teachers involved in **Hippo - the Contest 2027 edition**, from all participating countries.

Applicants are expected to have been directly involved in preparing, teaching and supporting students participating in the competition.

There is no minimum number of students required to apply. Teachers working with small groups or individual students are equally encouraged to participate.

3. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated according to four main criteria, for a total of 100 points.

3.1. MOTIVATING AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS - 25 POINTS

This criterion evaluates the teacher's ability to motivate students, build their confidence, encourage participation and support them in overcoming difficulties.

Consideration will be given to:

- Encouragement and support offered to students with low confidence or motivation.
- Attention to different abilities and learning needs.
- Strategies used to promote participation and engagement.
- Individual guidance, feedback and support.
- Recognition of effort and progress, not only final results.

3.2. TEACHING PRACTICE AND CREATIVITY - 25 POINTS

This criterion evaluates the quality and effectiveness of the teaching activities, methods and strategies developed by the teacher.

Consideration will be given to:

- Clarity of learning objectives.
- Relevance and effectiveness of the chosen teaching approaches.
- Creativity and engagement in classroom activities.
- Adaptation of activities to students' needs and abilities.
- The teacher's ability to explain why a particular approach was effective.

The evaluation will focus on the educational value of the activity rather than its complexity or the resources available to the teacher.

3.3. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT AND STUDENT PROGRESS - 25 POINTS

This criterion evaluates the positive changes observed in students as a result of the teacher's work.

Progress may include:

- Improvement in English language skills.
- Increased confidence in using English.
- Greater motivation and participation.
- Development of independent learning skills.
- Increased perseverance and willingness to face challenges.

- Improved collaboration and communication.

Teachers are encouraged to provide specific examples and, where possible, evidence supporting their observations.

Students' Hippo - the Contest results may also be considered as a supporting indicator of educational impact. However, competition results alone will not determine the evaluation. The number of students involved, their initial level and the proportion reaching subsequent competition stages will be considered in context.

No automatic advantage will be given to teachers simply because they involve larger groups of students or achieve higher absolute numbers of qualifications.

3.4. REFLECTION AND SHARING - 25 POINTS

This criterion evaluates the teacher's ability to reflect on their own experience and identify lessons that may be useful to other educators.

Consideration will be given to:

- Awareness of what worked well and why.
- Ability to recognise challenges and learn from them.
- Understanding of students' needs and progress.
- Practical ideas or approaches that could be shared with other teachers.

The aim is to recognise thoughtful, reflective teaching and the willingness to contribute to a wider educational community.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Teachers wishing to participate must complete the official online application form by **31 July 2027**.

The application form is designed to be straightforward and accessible. It includes four main sections corresponding to the assessment criteria.

Applicants will be asked to:

- Provide basic information about themselves and their teaching context.
- Indicate their involvement in Hippo - the Contest 2027 edition.
- Describe specific teaching activities and strategies.
- Explain the progress they have observed in their students.
- Reflect on their experience and share what they have learned.

The application includes both closed questions and short written responses. Word limits apply to the written sections.

Applicants should provide concrete examples based on their actual teaching experience. General statements without supporting examples may receive lower scores.

INSPIRER TEACHING REFLECTION GUIDE

Recognising the value of our own work is not always easy. In the daily demands of teaching, there is often little time to pause, look back and appreciate how much we have achieved and the difference we have made in our students' lives. Yet some of the most meaningful contributions can go unnoticed simply because we are too busy moving forward.

The **Inspirer Teaching Reflection Guide** is an optional resource designed to help teachers take that step back, reflect on their experience throughout the Hippo season and identify meaningful examples of their work with students.

The guide includes four simple reflection questions and practical prompts to help teachers recognise student progress, reflect on successful teaching activities and prepare their application. It is not compulsory and does not need to be submitted. The guide can be downloaded from the official Hippo Inspirer webpage.

No monthly reports, teaching diaries or extensive documentation are required. Additional supporting material may be submitted where relevant, but it is not compulsory and does not automatically contribute to a higher score.

Applications must be submitted through the official online form. Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline may not be considered.

5. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications will be evaluated by a team appointed by Hippo, based on the four assessment criteria described in these regulations:

- Motivating and Supporting Students
- Teaching Practice and Creativity
- Educational Impact and Student Progress
- Reflection and Sharing

The evaluation will consider the overall quality of each application. Competition results may contribute to the assessment but will not be the sole or determining factor. All applications will be assessed fairly and consistently, regardless of school size, number of students or available resources.

The organisers reserve the right to request further information or clarification where necessary. The evaluation team's decision will be final.

7. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Three teachers will be selected for the **Hippo Inspirer 2027 award**.

The three selected teachers will be hosted at Hippo's expense at the **Hippo World Finals 2027**. Accommodation and hospitality will be provided by Hippo; however, **travel expenses to and from Italy will be the responsibility of the selected teachers**.

The first, second and third place winners will be announced during the Hippo World Finals Award Ceremony.

All three selected teachers will be recognised for their contribution to their students' learning and for the educational value of their work. **The teacher ranked first will receive the title of Hippo Inspirer Teacher 2027**.

8. GENERAL PROVISIONS

By submitting an application, teachers confirm that the information and examples provided are accurate and based on their own teaching experience.

Applications must respect the privacy and rights of students. Applicants must not include personal information or identifiable images of students without the appropriate permissions.

The organisers reserve the right to verify information provided in applications and to disqualify submissions containing false or misleading information.

The organisers reserve the right to make final decisions regarding the interpretation and implementation of these regulations.

Any changes or additional information concerning the award will be communicated through official Hippo channels.