



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Commissioner

February 9, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

ROUTE TO: Principals

FROM: Peter Shulman, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Talent and Performance

SUBJECT: 2016 Exemplary Elementary Educator Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts (including charter schools) to participate in the 2016 Exemplary Elementary Educator Recognition Program. The **goal of this program is to identify exemplary educators** for special recognition. Your recommendations will help honor individuals who are valued by their school and community and who may ultimately receive prestigious national recognition.

The Department requests administrators to identify **up to three exemplary elementary (grades PreK-5) teachers, specialists, and principals** who have taught for at least five years and who have demonstrated exceptional teaching and leadership abilities; *note: candidates must have received a rating of Effective or Highly Effective on their 2014-15 final evaluation.* Exemplary educators should exhibit strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a clear vision for quality teaching and learning that has a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the school community (for full criteria, please see the attached information sheet).

Each district may recommend up to three educators by completing the online 2016 Exemplary Elementary Educator Recognition Program Recommendation Application for each nominee. The online application can be accessed by logging on to the Homeroom Website (<http://homeroom.state.nj.us/>) and clicking on the *Exemplary Educator* link. To submit a nomination, you will need a **district-level user account from your district's Homeroom Administrator**. Completed applications (application forms, resumes, and recommendation letters) **must be submitted online by 4 p.m., on Friday, April 8, 2016**. Please refer to the **attached Information Sheet** for detailed application information.

Your nomination is confidential and should not be shared with the individual being recommended. Nominators of candidates who are selected as Exemplary Educators will receive a certificate of recognition in November 2016 via mail to share with the awardees then.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Besant, program coordinator, at nancy.besant@doe.state.nj.us.

As always, we appreciate your collaboration in recognizing the great work of New Jersey's outstanding educators.

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Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
David C. Hespe, Commissioner
Senior Staff
Diane Shoener
Marie Barry
Kristen Brown
Harold Lee
Nancy Besant
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group