

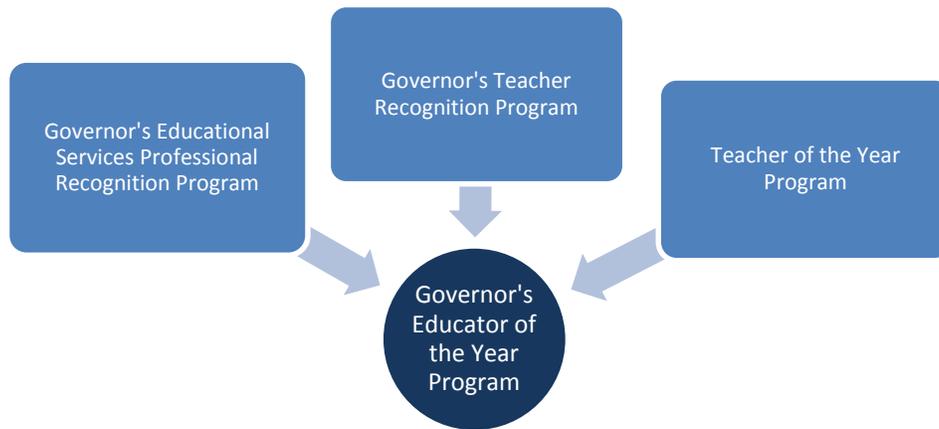


NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2016-17 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

County-Level Nomination Packet

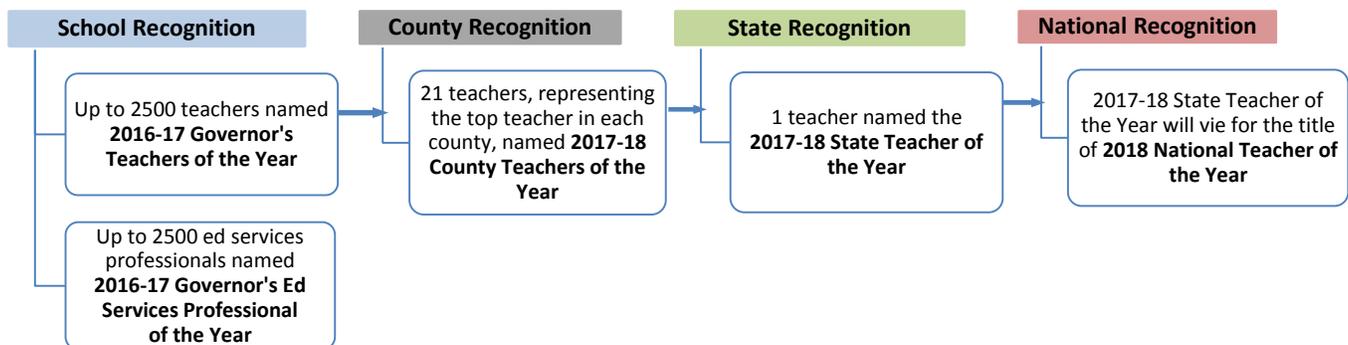
Introduction

The New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to announce the second iteration of the Governor's Educator of the Year Award. This celebratory program integrates the Teacher of the Year Program with the Governor's Teacher/Educational Services Professional Recognition Program to continue to recognize our state's best teachers and educational services professionals.



Levels of Recognition

Please reach out to every New Jersey principal to encourage them to recognize one Effective or Highly-Effective teacher and educational services professional as a Governor's Teacher of the Year and Governor's Ed Services Professional of the Year, respectively. Each Governor's Teacher of the Year can vie for the chance to compete for county, state and national recognition. The County Offices of Education should award all school-level recipients state award certificates. *Note: In order to streamline and improve the selection process for the county-level award, there is no longer a district-level competition.*



The County-Level Selection Process

To select your County Teacher of the Year, County Offices of Education should:

1. **Encourage school districts to participate in the Governor's Educator of the Year Program**
2. **Read through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)** (see Appendix A for the FAQ's) to help guide the process at the county level
3. **Designate an education specialist to serve as the program coordinator to verify that the County Teacher of the Year:**
 - Nominees are eligible (*see revised eligibility criteria listed on the next page*)
 - **Revised county applications** are complete (*contain a GEOY ID code*) and in compliance with the application guidelines (see Appendix B for the application)
4. **Form a county selection committee:** Must consist of at least four members who represent a cross section of administrators, teachers (*Note: must include the 2016-17 County Teacher of the Year*), parents, and county education association representatives.
5. **Have the selection committee score nominees and select the highest scoring teacher as the 2017-18 County Teacher of the Year** (see Appendix C for *Scoring Rubric*);
6. **Submit on or before 4pm on April 28, 2017:**
 - Completed *County Information Form* (see Appendix D for the form)
 - 1 Original *County Teacher of the Year Application* (see Appendix A for the application) to the New Jersey Department of Education, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500, Attn: Nancy Besant
7. **Notify candidates of their award status**
8. **Automatically receive state award certificates by May 1, 2017** for every Governor's Teacher of the Year and Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year registered by the principal in the GEOY online form
9. **Plan to distribute the state award** certificates preferably at an awards ceremony or give them directly to districts to distribute

Eligibility Criteria

Any teachers nominated for County Teacher of the Year must meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

- Be an **exceptionally skilled and dedicated licensed classroom teacher** (pre-K through grade 12 in a public or charter school) where **teaching is the primary responsibility** rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities; *Note: educational services professionals are not eligible to compete for county-level teacher award*
- Have achieved a 2015-16 **summative rating of at least Effective**; If the teacher has not received a 2015-16 summative rating at the time of application, then their practice rating should be at least Effective or the equivalent;
- Be a dedicated and skilled teacher leader who **anticipates actively continuing in his/her teaching career for at least five (5) more years**
- Be an expert in their field **who inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities** to achieve excellence
- **Actively collaborate with colleagues, students, and families** to create a strong culture of respect and success
- Demonstrate **leadership and innovation in educational activities** at the school, district, and/or state and national level that take place both within or outside the school setting
- Have the **respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues**
- Demonstrate **poise, eloquence, and the ability to maintain a demanding schedule**
- **Not have earned the title** of County Teacher of the Year **for the past five (5) years**

Next Steps and Dates to Remember (see Appendix E for *Program Timeline*)

- **By 4pm on January 27, 2017:** Governor's Teachers of the Year submit County Teacher of the Year application & School Information Form to District Superintendent for completeness & eligibility review
- **By 4 pm on February 17, 2017:** District Superintendents submit one packet of County Teacher of the Year applications (original plus 5 copies) & School Information Forms to County Offices of Education
- **By 4 pm on April 28, 2017:** New Jersey Department of Education receives County Teachers of the Year applications and County Information Forms
- **By May 1, 2017:** Department of Education will provide certificates to County Offices of Education for distribution
- **By May 5, 2017:** County Offices notify all their applicants of their status
- **May 8, 2017:** County Teachers of the Year notified/invited to compete for State Teacher of the Year
- **June 2, 2017:** County Teachers of the Year submit video to compete for State Teacher of the Year
- **August 16, 2017:** County Coordinators are invited to attend Orientation Ceremony with their County Teachers of the Year
- **October 4, 2017:** State Teacher of the Year is announced at the State Board of Education Meeting

Questions and Additional Information

- Electronic copies of all forms and instructions can be found at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/rpr/recognition/educators/geoy/>
- If you have any questions please reach out to Nancy Besant, Recognition Programs Coordinator at the New Jersey Department of Education, at nancy.besant@doe.state.nj.us