



# *Toms River Regional School District*



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## **Annual Educator of the Year Program Nominations**

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### **DESCRIPTION**

The **Toms River Regional School District** is proud to participate this year in the New Jersey Department of Education's *Governor's Educator of the Year Program*. This program highlights educational innovation, student learning, and the rewards of teaching. It recognizes and honors the contributions of outstanding pre-K through grade 12 classroom teachers and educational services professionals who possess a special talent for inspiring a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities and are leaders in their fields. This year, the program combines the Governor's Educator Award with county and state Teacher of the Year recognitions.

### **SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINES**

Based on parent, peer, and administrator input received by December 5, 2014, each school will select two educators to serve as **School Teacher of the Year** and **School Educational Services Professional of the Year**. Each Teacher of the Year is invited by the NJ Department of Education to compete for the title of **County Teacher of the Year** by January 30, 2015. The 21 county winners are then invited to the next level of application to vie for the **State Teacher of the Year**. The individual selected as New Jersey State Teacher of the Year becomes the state's nominee for **National Teacher of the Year**.

For more detailed information on this process, go to

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/rpr/recognition/educators/geoy>

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

In addition to the honor of being chosen by the school community, Teachers and Educational Professionals of the Year who could become county, state and national recipients must have certain qualifications and must be able to meet certain responsibilities. Please see the attached as you consider the qualities of your nominee.

If you would like to participate in this process, please fill out the attached form and submit it to your child's school in a sealed envelope by December 5. Forms received after that date will not be considered. If you have children who attend or have attended more than one school, you may nominate a teacher and ed services professional at each school your child attends or has attended.



# *Toms River Regional School District*

## **NJ Department of Education Teacher of the Year Program Nomination**

**Instructions:** to nominate a teacher who meets the criteria described on the attached page, please fill out the following form and return it to any school in a sealed envelope marked "Teacher of the Year" by **December 5, 2014**. Please explain why you feel the educator deserves recognition, citing specific examples. The more compelling the response, the better. Use the back if additional room is needed.

<b>NOMINEE INFORMATION</b>	
NAME	
SCHOOL	
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
CURRENT POSITION	
<b>NOMINATOR INFORMATION</b>	
NAME	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
RELATIONSHIP TO NOMINEE	

<b>NOMINATION</b>
1. In what ways does the educator have a superior ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn?
2. In what ways has the educator demonstrated exceptional skills and dedication to her or his students and profession?
3. How has the educator demonstrated a strong ability to foster excellence?

4. In what ways has the educator played an active role in the community as well as in the school?

5. How has the educator continuously worked to enhance their content knowledge and improve and expand their teaching skills?

6. How has this teacher made a difference for your child/children?

7. Additional Comments (if any):

# *Toms River Regional School District*

## **NJDOE Education Services Professional of the Year Nomination**

**Instructions:** to nominate a teacher who meets the criteria described on the attached page, please fill out the following form and return it to any school in a sealed envelope marked "Teacher of the Year" by **December 5, 2014**. Please explain why you feel the educator deserves recognition, citing specific examples. The more compelling the response, the better. Use the back if additional room is needed.

<b>NOMINEE INFORMATION</b>	
NAME	
SCHOOL	
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
CURRENT POSITION	
<b>NOMINATOR INFORMATION</b>	
NAME	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
RELATIONSHIP TO NOMINEE	

<b>NOMINATION</b>
1. In what ways does the educator have a superior ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn?
2. In what ways has the educator demonstrated exceptional skills and dedication to his or her students and profession?
3. How has the educator demonstrated a strong ability to foster excellence?

4. In what ways has the educator played an active role in the community as well as in the school?

5. How has the educator continuously worked to enhance their content knowledge and improve and expand their teaching skills?

6. How has this teacher made a difference for your child/children?

7. Additional Comments (if any):



**New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2014-15 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM**

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Any educators nominated for this award must **meet all of the following requirements:**

- Be a **licensed classroom teacher** (pre-K through grade 12) **or educational services professional** (see below for list of eligible certification areas) in a public or charter school
- Must have achieved a 2013-14 **summative rating of at least Effective**; If the teacher or educational services professional has not received a 2013-14 summative rating at the time of application, then their practice rating should be at least Effective or the equivalent; Note: to receive the state-level award individuals must be Highly Effective
- Be a dedicated and skilled teacher leader who **anticipates actively continuing in his/her teaching career for at least five (5) more years**
- Inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities** to learn
- Demonstrate strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by **ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning and the learning environment**
- Demonstrate **leadership 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**
- Have not earned the title of Teacher of the Year for the past five (5) years**
- Teacher nominees only:* Have **teaching as their primary responsibility** rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities

### **Eligible Certification Areas for Educational Services Professionals**

In order to compete for the Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year nominees must be classified as:

- Associate School Library Media Specialist
- Cooperative Education Coordinator
- Cooperative Education Coordinator / Hazardous Occupations
- Director of School Counseling Services
- Educational Interpreter (Cued Speech Transliteration, Oral Interpreting, Sign Language Interpreting)
- Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant
- Reading Specialist
- School Athletic Trainer
- School Counselor
- School Library Media Specialist
- School Nurse (Instructional and Non-Instructional)
- School Occupational Therapist
- School Physical Therapist
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Speech-Language Specialist
- Student Assistance Coordinator



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## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Being named a Governor's County or State Teacher of the Year is **not only an award, but an honor** that comes with an enormous amount of responsibility to represent the teaching profession in the county and/or state.

### **Governor's County and State Teacher of the Year Roles**

1. A liaison between the teaching community and the NJDOE, County Offices of Education, districts, and communities;
2. An education ambassador to businesses, parents, service organizations, and media;
3. A resource on the state of the profession to be available for workshops and conferences around the state;
4. An education leader involved in teacher forums and education reform; and
5. A representative for the teaching profession by:
  - a. Articulating the many ways that teachers contribute to the profession, and
  - b. Sharing knowledge about specific programs and instructional strategies that benefit teachers and students.

### **6-Month Sabbatical for Governor's State Teacher of the Year**

The Governor's State Teacher of the Year receives a 6-month sabbatical (**salary and benefits covered by Educational Testing Service**) to work at the New Jersey Department of Education from January until June from his/her teaching assignment in order to fulfill the role/responsibilities.

Since the Governor's State Teacher of the Year will be asked to attend many events and make numerous speeches during the 2015-16 school year he or she must be **poised, articulate, and have the energy to make and withstand a busy schedule.**

### **Benefits to Being the Governor's State Teacher of the Year**

1. Meet the **President of the United States**;
2. Attend national events and conferences;
3. Serve as the representative for the teaching profession, making public appearances statewide speaking with professional, business, education, civic, parent, and student groups;
4. Gain a network of friends and colleagues from the nation's top teaching professionals;
5. Receive a 6-month paid sabbatical (salary and benefits) to work at the New Jersey Department of Education and a brand new laptop courtesy of **program sponsor ETS**;
6. Receive a brand new car leased for 1 year with EZPASS, a gold ring, travel reimbursement to events, a \$500 clothing allowance and an LCD Projector courtesy of **program sponsor NJEA**;
7. Receive a full SMART Classroom courtesy of **program sponsor SMART Technologies**; and
8. Become New Jersey's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Program, the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching. The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and more information can be found at [www.ccsso.org/ntoy.html](http://www.ccsso.org/ntoy.html).