



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
Superintendents of Unified School Districts  
Directors of Public Charter Schools  
Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers  
Principals of Endowed and Incorporated Academies

**FROM:** Dr. Shuana K. Tucker, Chief Talent Officer

**DATE:** April 6, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year Information

The COVID-19 crisis has significantly shifted the way Connecticut's educators plan and deliver instruction. Never before have our students and their families needed greater support, not only for their academic success but for their social and emotional well-being. Emerging from this new way of doing business is innovation through collaboration that is unprecedented. Once this crisis has passed, the opportunity for recognizing and sharing this new dimension of instructional practices within a virtual environment must be captured and celebrated.

The Connecticut State Department of Education, in partnership with the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, has decided to move forward with the CT Teacher of the Year Program. The application for district-selected Teachers of the Year will be available beginning May 1, 2020, but will not be due for submission until August 2, 2020. The recognition event at the Bushnell Auditorium is scheduled for November 10, 2020. Details for gaining access to the application will be sent in a memo to superintendents by April 15, 2020.

Additionally, the Connecticut State Department of Education will move forward with the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program. The 2021 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award application for district-selected Paraeducators of the Year will be available April 15, 2020, with completed applications due by June 30, 2020. District Paraeducators of the Year will be recognized at a Paraeducator Symposium in fall 2020. Additional information about selection criteria and timeline will be sent to superintendents by April 15, 2020.

We recognize the heavy lift placed upon all educators during these unsettling times but encourage you to continue with your process of selecting a Teacher of the Year and a Paraeducator of the Year whose voices can be representative of these shared unique experiences.

cc: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education  
Ms. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner of Education  
Mr. Christopher Todd, Bureau Chief, Talent Office  
Ms. Sharon Fuller, Education Consultant, Bureau of Educator Effectiveness  
Ms. Kim Wachtelhausen, Education Consultant, Bureau of Educator Effectiveness