



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



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

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CRJ*

DATE: April 27, 2023

SUBJECT: 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program

As we continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, I am proud of the collaboration among school administrators, educators and school staff, families and communities working together to help meet the social, emotional, and physical health needs of our students.

One way to recognize, honor and celebrate educator excellence is through the Connecticut Teacher of the Year program by selecting a teacher ambassador to represent the many exemplary educators and to elevate the voices of those working so hard to educate our students throughout Connecticut.

I am pleased to announce that the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program portal is now open and ready for the electronic submission of the 2024 District Teachers of the Year for consideration of the 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year honor. <https://toy.eastconn.org>

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Application

Connecticut's Teacher of the Year Program begins with the selection of a Teacher of the Year within a local school district. Each district may follow its own selection process. Once a decision is made, the District Teacher of the Year must submit an electronic application in the Connecticut Teacher of the Year portal to be considered as a candidate for Connecticut Teacher of the Year and to be included in the annual recognition ceremony. A link to the online application is located on the CSDE website at [Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program](#)

The deadline for submission of the 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year application is **Tuesday, August 1, 2023, by 11:59 p.m.**

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Criteria

To be considered for selection as the Connecticut Teacher of the Year, an educator must work directly with students at least 50 percent of the time and must currently work under a Connecticut certificate with a teaching endorsement or a vocational teaching endorsement. Please follow the link for eligible endorsement codes. [Endorsement Codes \(ct.gov\)](#).

Local school districts may select candidates that do not meet these requirements, but those candidates will not be considered for the statewide honor. A District Teacher of the Year may also opt out from consideration for the statewide honor. All candidates, however, must complete

the online application to participate in the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Recognition Ceremony on November 15, 2023.

It is important to remember that the local school district process must be viewed as fair and inclusive by teachers, administrators, and the public. Participating districts find that the Connecticut Teacher of the Year program has a positive impact and a source of pride for the local community to recognize a teacher who exemplifies the good work of educators in the district.

The selected Connecticut Teacher of the Year also represents the state for consideration as the National Teacher of the Year and participates throughout the year in state and national education policy discussions, forums, and conferences.

Connecticut's Teacher of the Year Council

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council is a non-profit organization that works with the Connecticut State Department of Education on many of the responsibilities administering the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program. The Council conducts the rigorous selection process of selecting approximately fifteen semifinalists, four finalists and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year. The Council also coordinates educational forums and networking sessions for the selected cohort.

For questions or assistance with the local district selection process, please contact David Bosso, Council President at davidbosso@gmail.com.

If you have additional questions, please contact Mary Glassman, Connecticut Teacher of the Year Coordinator at mary.a.glassman@ct.gov

We look forward to receiving your nominees for the 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

cc: Dr. Shuana K. Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Mary Glassman, Coordinator, CT Teacher of the Year Program