



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

DATE: April 28, 2026

SUBJECT: 2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program

Teachers across Connecticut make a lasting impact on students and families every day. Recognizing and elevating exceptional educators is a critical component of strengthening our statewide educator workforce and advancing excellence in teaching and learning. In partnership with the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is pleased to announce that the 2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year (CT TOY) Program is now accepting applications.

Each district is invited to identify a District Teacher of the Year (DTOY) through its local selection process.

- All selected DTOYs must **register** in the CT TOY portal (<https://toy.eastconn.org>) by **Friday, June 26, 2026**.
- The deadline to **apply** for the 2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year is **Monday, August 3, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**

Connecticut's program, established in 1952, honors outstanding educators and selects one teacher to represent the state at the national level. All DTOYs, along with the selected Connecticut Teacher of the Year, will be honored at the annual recognition ceremony on **Wednesday, December 2, 2026**, at The Bushnell in Hartford.

To be eligible for the statewide honor, candidates must:

- Work directly with students at least 50 percent of the time; and
- Hold a valid Connecticut teaching certificate with an appropriate endorsement.

Districts may select candidates who do not meet these criteria; however, those individuals will not be eligible for state-level consideration. DTOYs may also opt out of the statewide application process.

We strongly encourage districts to ensure that their local selection processes are fair, transparent, and inclusive of all eligible educators across grade levels, subject areas, and roles. Participating in the CT TOY Program is a meaningful way to recognize excellence, elevate the teaching profession, and strengthen educator engagement and retention across your district and throughout the state.

For additional information, please visit our website: [CSDE Teacher of the Year Program](#) or email the CSDE team at SDE.TOY@ct.gov.

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council supports the program by facilitating the selection process, including application review and site visits, and by coordinating professional learning opportunities for participants. To learn more, please visit their website: cttoycouncil.org or email David Bosso, Executive Director of the CT TOY Council, at davidbosso@gmail.com.

We look forward to celebrating your nominees for the 2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

cc: Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner of Educational Supports & Wellness
Dr. Shuana K. Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Ashley Wright, Co-Coordinator, CT Teacher of the Year Program
Victoria Malvey, Co-Coordinator, CT Teacher of the Year Program

2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program Timeline

This timeline provides an overview of key dates and milestones to support coordinated planning and participation by districts and applicants throughout the selection process.		
Timeframe	Action	Lead
Spring/Summer, 2026	District selection process window.	District Leadership
April – July, 2026	District Teachers of the Year prepare their online application and/or register for inclusion in the recognition ceremony.	DTOY
Monday, August 3, 2026	Application submitted via online portal by 11:59 p.m.	DTOY
August 5–August 21, 2026	Selection Committee reviews all completed and submitted application portfolios.	CSDE Coordinators
Late August, 2026	All Semifinalists are notified. Semifinalist interviews are scheduled.	CSDE Coordinators
September 17–18, 2026	Semifinalist interviews held at the Legislative Office Building.	CSDE Coordinators, DTOYs
Week of September 21, 2026	All semifinalists are notified if selected as a Finalist. Finalists are provided with school visit dates and procedures.	CSDE Coordinators
October 1 and 2, 2026	Site visits take place at Finalists’ schools.	CSDE Coordinators, District Leadership
October/November TBD, 2026	Commissioner announces the 2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year during a press conference at the teacher’s school.	CSDE Coordinators, District Leadership
Late October, 2026	National Teacher of the Year application due to CCSSO National Teacher of the Year Office, Washington, D.C.	Connecticut TOY
December 2, 2026	Recognition event at The Bushnell in Hartford, CT to honor each district Teacher of the Year, Semifinalists, Finalists, and the 2027 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.	CSDE Coordinators