

**2017 SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR
PROGRAM DISTRICT GUIDELINES
AND
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The South Carolina Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the South Carolina Department of Education and is coordinated by the Division of School Effectiveness. Teachers are nominated by South Carolina school districts for consideration as the 2017 South Carolina Teacher of the Year. The selected educator will then be entered as a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year. Sponsored by the ING Foundation and the Target Corporation, the National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Counsel of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

STATE SELECTION PROCESS

- A. On or before September 14, 2015, submit the name of your District Teacher of the Year to the SCDE's Division of School Effectiveness.
- B. The online application is currently available for advanced preparation purposes. The online application submission window opens on November 16, 2015. The deadline for submitting applications is 4 p.m., January 1, 2016.
- C. Selection of the State Teacher of the Year will be the combined responsibility of two groups: The Teacher of the Year Screening Committee and the State Selection Committee. **(See South Carolina Teacher of the Year Selection Process)**
- D. The Screening Committee will identify the top twenty-five candidates for consideration for the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will then choose five teachers to be named South Carolina Teacher of the Year finalists. A State Teacher of the Year and four Honor Roll Teachers will be named.
- E. The State Teacher of the Year, Honor Roll Teachers, and all District Teachers of the Year will be honored at a celebratory event in Columbia in the spring. The State Teacher of the Year will receive \$25,000, and each Honor Roll Teacher will receive \$10,000. The District Teachers of the Year will receive \$1,000. Each honoree will receive citations and appropriate commendations from the State Superintendent of Education and State Board of Education.
- F. The State Superintendent of Education will enter the name of the South Carolina Teacher of the Year in the 2016-2017 National Teacher of the Year Program in the fall of 2016.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the Teacher of the Year Program by any school district in South Carolina is optional. It will be the responsibility of the superintendent to nominate one teacher from his or her district based on the district's chosen selection method. District selection methods vary widely.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- A. The teacher is a classroom teacher in a public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school. Nominees include all subject area teachers, vocational teachers, librarians/media specialists, guidance counselors, curriculum resource teachers, teacher specialists, speech therapists and lead teachers.
- B. Nominees are exceptionally skillful and dedicated pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school teachers who are planning to continue in an active teaching status. **All nominees must be continuing contract teachers and have direct contact with students a minimum of three hours a day on average.** Nominees must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate, with the exception of ROTC teachers who must be qualified by the appropriate area of Service.
- C. Nominees have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and co-workers. They should play active roles in their communities and schools, often distinguishing themselves as leaders.
- D. Nominees demonstrate a willingness to devote time and energy to activities which result in improved instruction for children. They demonstrate a desire to keep abreast of current educational theories and practices through continued staff development and by attending workshops and seminars in their particular areas.
- E. Nominees demonstrate the ability and willingness to make contributions to the field of education by conducting seminars, workshops, and by being involved in training and assisting fellow teachers in their professional development. They show examples of innovative practices in their classrooms.
- F. As an ambassador for the state's public education system, the South Carolina Teacher of the Year will make numerous public appearances. The nominee is poised, articulate, and has the energy and equanimity to execute a busy schedule. While all of these qualifications are considered for selection, the most important qualification is a superior ability to impart knowledge to students and to inspire them to be life-long learners.
- G. The teacher selected as South Carolina Teacher of the Year will serve a one-year Teacher in Residence as the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA), which begins June 1, 2016 and ends May 31, 2017. The South Carolina Teacher of the Year will also serve as Chair of the South Carolina Teacher Forum.