

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Public Information Officers

FROM: Derek Phillips
Director of Communications

Ashley Cohoon
Office of Leadership Effectiveness

DATE: March 4, 2025

RE: Recommendation Request for South Carolina Educator Talent Pool

Talent matters. The path to retaining our best and brightest teachers includes recognizing their expertise and impact. The South Carolina Department of Education maintains a file of emerging classroom leaders including distinguished teachers and principals. These educators may be considered for recognition programs and membership on advisory groups, and task forces. Your recommendations will identify educators who we can recognize as experts in your community and our state.

We are fortunate to have a rich base of veteran educators in our current talent pool. They have been and continue to be a valuable resource in our state efforts. What is missing is representation from educators relatively new to the profession who demonstrate unusually strong instructional and leadership ability. Such persons exhibit strong potential for professional leadership and inspiring presence that impacts students, colleagues, and community.

Do you know a relatively new educator who is illustrative not only of our state's, but also the nation's best? Whose lessons provide models for others? Who has distinguished him/herself above and beyond established top-quality professionals in our schools? A minimum of five years in education is necessary. Members of the talent pool are building-level personnel. They are typically classroom teachers and are recognized by peers and supervisors as unique in their leadership and results with students. Occasionally a principal or specialist is considered.

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Of special interest are educators who are outstanding and have not received other formal recognition.

Please provide CONFIDENTIAL, specific information for a candidate by filling out the [recommendation request form](#). All questions must be answered.

Optionally, please include a resume from their personnel file. We ask that you keep this recommendation confidential and do not share it with the individual. We urge you to take the time to recommend a candidate. Again, you can click [this link](#) to recommend an outstanding candidate.