



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 16, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Staff Involved with Educator Recognition
From: Diana Pasculli, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance
Deadline: December 4, 2020

Nominations Sought for 2020-2021 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) aims to recognize educators who have gone above and beyond in their service to New Jersey's students. Over the past several months, educators changed the way they delivered instruction to New Jersey's 1.4 million students. Now, more than ever before, is the time to celebrate New Jersey's outstanding educators. Therefore, every school in every district is encouraged to participate in Governor's Educator of the Year program to honor the hardworking teachers and educational services professionals for their dedication to their students and the profession.

This program promotes a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators. Please remember to consider exceptional educators with diverse backgrounds to ensure that honorees represent the ethnic/racial diversity of our state.

Instructions:

- 1) Review all forms and documents on the [GEOY Program webpage](#), especially the [Program Timelines](#), which were revised to provide a more optimal timeframe for schools to identify outstanding educators;
- 2) Send [nomination forms](#) to the entire school community (administrators, staff members, students, parents and community members);
- 3) Form a diverse panel following program guidelines to select one Teacher of the Year and one Educational Services Professional of the Year per school by November 20, 2020 (See [Nomination Form Scoring Guide](#));
- 4) Register your Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year and upload your completed [School Information Form](#) with each nominee's scores in the [GEOY online form](#) by December 4, 2020 (See [Online Form Instructions](#)); and
- 5) Notify all educators in your school that were nominated if they won or not by December 11, 2020.

All registered Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals of the Year will receive a state certificate and access to a "virtual gift bag" of free classroom resources*, in February 2021.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Besant at nancy.besant@doe.nj.gov. As always, the NJDOE appreciates your collaboration in recognizing the great work of New Jersey's outstanding educators.

**Disclaimer: The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is working collaboratively with the NJDOE to increase the number of outstanding educators honored by GEOY each year. As such, NJSBA is partnering with companies to provide free gift items and other classroom resources to each 2020-2021 registered GEOY recipient. Please be advised that neither the NJDOE nor its employees specifically endorse, recommend or favor the vendors, and do not endorse, recommend, or favor the service, product or program offered by any of these vendors.*

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner
NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJLEE Group