



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 3, 2021  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: Principals, Staff Involved with Educator Recognition  
From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Academics and Performance  
Deadline: April 9, 2021

## 2021 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites school administrators to nominate up to three outstanding secondary (grades 6-12) educators for the 2021 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program. The annual Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program honors diverse educators who:

- have a positive impact on their students, colleagues, and the school community;
- possess a clear vision for quality teaching and learning; and
- may ultimately receive recognition at the county, state, and national levels.

When school leaders honor hard-working educators, they promote a culture that publicly recognizes excellence and fosters pride in the education profession. The NJDOE encourages administrators to consider exceptional educators with diverse backgrounds to ensure that honorees represent the ethnic and racial diversity of New Jersey.

### Nominating Exemplary Educators

Administrators can nominate up to three total teachers, specialists, and principals from New Jersey public school districts (including charter schools and renaissance school projects) who have:

- taught for at least five years;
- demonstrated exceptional teaching and leadership abilities; and
- received a rating of Effective or Highly Effective on their 2018-19 final summative evaluation.

Administrators must complete and submit the online [2021 Exemplary Educator Recognition Program Recommendation Form](#) for each nominee. To submit a nomination, administrators will need a *district-level Exemplary Educator account* from their district's Homeroom Administrator.

Completed nomination forms must be submitted online *by 4 p.m. EST Friday, April 9, 2021*. For full criteria and recommendation form information, please refer to this [information sheet](#).

*Nominations are confidential and should not be shared with recommended nominees.* If a nominated candidate is selected as an Exemplary Educator, their nominator will receive a certificate of recognition in November 2021 via mail to share with the awardees at that time.

### Contact information

If you have questions, please reach out to Nancy Besant, Program Coordinator, at [nancy.besant@doe.nj.gov](mailto:nancy.besant@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group