



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 1, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency leads  
Route To: Principals, Staff Involved with Educator Recognition  
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services  
Deadline: April 7, 2023

## 2023 Exemplary Educator Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites school administrators to recommend up to three outstanding secondary (grades 6-12) educators for the 2023 Exemplary Educator Recognition Program. The annual Exemplary Educator Recognition Program alternates each year honoring elementary (grades PreK-5) or secondary (grades 6-12) 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 be a candidate for 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.

### Recommending Exemplary Educators

Administrators can recommend up to three secondary (grades 6-12) 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 latest final summative evaluation.

Administrators must complete and submit the online [2023 Exemplary Educator Recognition Program Recommendation Form](#) for each exemplary educator. To submit a recommendation, administrators will need a *district-level Exemplary Educator account* from their district's Homeroom Administrator.

Completed recommendation forms must be submitted online *by 4 p.m. EST Friday, April 7, 2023*. For full criteria and recommendation form information, please refer to this [information sheet](#).

*Recommendations are confidential and should not be shared with the candidate.* If a recommended candidate is selected as an Exemplary Educator, their recommender will receive a certificate of recognition in November 2023 via mail to share with the awardees at that time.

### Contact information

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

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
NJ LEE Group

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools