



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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October 25, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

ROUTE TO: Principals

FROM: Kristen Brown, Chief Talent Officer
Division of Talent and Performance

SUBJECT: 2016-17 Governor's Educator of the Year Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce that the application process for the 2016-17 Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) Program is now open. This process integrates the Teacher of the Year Program with the Governor's Teacher/Educational Services Professional Recognition Program to recognize the hard work of outstanding teachers and educational services professionals.

Schools taking part in educator recognition programs have found that participation promotes a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride, and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators.

Each school is strongly encouraged to participate by selecting one teacher and one educational services professional this fall and registering them in the GEOY online system by January 6, 2017, so that they may receive a state certificate. All documents, including application details and timelines, are available [online](#). Some important reminders include:

- **If a school already chose their 2016-17 recipients in the spring of 2016**, and they meet all the 2016-17 GEOY eligibility requirements, then consider registering them in the GEOY online form by January 6, 2017, to ensure that every honored educator receives a state certificate.
- **Each school should follow the uniform GEOY nomination and selection process.** Please note that the eligibility criteria has been enhanced.
- **Certificates for a school's awardees will be generated when each honoree is registered** in the GEOY online form found on the NJDOE's [Homeroom](#) website. Schools need to register recipients on the online form in order for recipients to receive certificates, which are distributed through the NJDOE's county office. Each school/district must notify each

recipient that he or she has won, as the GEOY system does not generate an automatic email notification message.

- **Only 2016-17 teachers selected for the school-level award can compete for County Teacher of the Year.** Each 2016-17 teacher selected for the school-level award can compete for the county-level award by completing the [revised county application](#) by the applicable deadline.

School officials are asked to review this information carefully prior to beginning the application process. In addition, the NJDOE recommends disseminating the 2016-17 [School-Level Nomination Packet](#) to building principals in a timely manner in order to adhere to the program timelines.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact your County Office of Education, or [Nancy Besant](#), the NJDOE's Recognition Programs Coordinator.

The NJDOE hopes that all schools and districts will take the opportunity to recognize the hard work of the dedicated and outstanding educators in New Jersey.

KB/RS/NB/

c: Members, State Board of Education
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