



**For Immediate Release**  
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## New Jersey Department of Education Announces 2020-2021 County Teachers of the Year

**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced 21 teachers as the 2020-2021 County Teachers of the Year during a virtual awards [ceremony](#).

“Our County Teachers of the Year exemplify the dedication and commitment we see in educators throughout the state,” said Governor Phil Murphy. “Now, more than ever, it’s important to celebrate and support our teachers in their efforts to ensure all students have opportunities to succeed.”

“Teachers and schools have the power to change lives, said Interim Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer. “The County Teachers of the Year who were announced today are being honored not only for their outstanding performance, but also for their high expectations for all students.”

The Governor’s Educator of the Year Program promotes a positive school culture by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of outstanding teachers. Individual schools are encouraged to nominate exceptional educators with diverse backgrounds to ensure that the honorees represent the ethnic/racial diversity of New Jersey. As an added incentive to participate, the New Jersey School Boards Association made it possible for over 2,400 educators who were named as their local school’s educator of the year to receive free virtual educational resources that will benefit their students.

The County Teachers of the Year will network with educators throughout the state and serve as ambassadors for New Jersey’s public schools. A panel of educators then will select the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year based on written applications, video submissions, and interviews with the top finalists.

The New Jersey State Teacher of the Year is typically announced at the State Board of Education’s October meeting and will go on to represent New Jersey in competing for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

Additional information can be found on the [Governor’s Educator of the Year webpage](#).

### New Jersey’s 2020-2021 County Teachers of the Year

County	First Name	Last Name	Grade level Taught	Subject Area	School	School District
Atlantic	Philip	Pallitto	5th & 6th	English Language Arts	Jordan Road School	Somers Point School District
Bergen	Megan	Williams	9th-12th	French	Tenaflly High School	Tenaflly School District
Burlington	Michael	Dunlea	3rd	Elementary	Tabernacle Elementary School	Tabernacle Township School District
Camden	Angel	Santiago	5th	Elementary	Loring Flemming Elementary School	Gloucester Township School District
Cape May	Rachel	Krementz	5th-6th	Special Education	Ocean Academy	Cape May County Special Services
Cumberland	Kristina	Messina	5th	Elementary	Mount Pleasant Elementary School	Millville School District
Essex	David	Coster	9th-12th	Mathematics & Engineering	Cedar Grove High School	Cedar Grove School District
Gloucester	Jami	Centrella	6th	English Language Arts	Caroline L. Reutter School	Franklin Township School District
Hudson	Alicia	Vilas	4th	Elementary	Dr. Maya Angelou Elem. School, PS#20	Jersey City School District
Hunterdon	Angie	Mikula	PreK-8th	Art	Delaware Township School	Delaware Township School District
Mercer	Jessica	Merz	1st & 3rd	Special Education	Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf	
Middlesex	Jaclyn	Terebetski	9th-12th	Business/Technology	Carteret High School	Carteret School District

County	First Name	Last Name	Grade level Taught	Subject Area	School	School District
Monmouth	Christina	Gauss	9th-12th	Spanish	Rumson-Fair Haven Reg. High School	Rumson-Fair Haven Reg. High School District
Morris	Christopher	Butchko	9th-12th	Social Studies	Montville Township High School	Montville Township School District
Ocean	Lucia	Giavatto-DiLeo	9th-12th	Spanish	Manchester Township High School	Manchester Township School District
Passaic	Megan	Graziano	9th	Science	Clifton High School	Clifton School District
Salem	Michelle	Williams	9th-12th	Science	Woodstown High School	Woodstown Pilesgrove School District
Somerset	Micki	Cobos	9th-12th	ESL	Somerville High School	Somerville School District
Sussex	Meghan	Radimer	PreK-6th	Health & Physical Education	Stillwater Township School	Stillwater School District
Union	Jamie	Warner	8th	Social Studies	Orange Avenue School	Cranford School District
Warren	Courtney	Kopf	9th-12th	Science	Belvidere High School	Belvidere School District