



For Immediate Release
Date: August 25, 2021

Contact: [Shaheed M. Morris](#)
 (609) 376-9072

New Jersey Department of Education Announces 2021-2022 County Teachers of the Year

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced 21 educators as the 2021-2022 County Teachers of the Year during a virtual awards ceremony.

“New Jersey public schools have been recognized as the best in the nation and the strength of our schools is driven by our dynamic educators,” said Governor Phil Murphy. “Congratulations to all of the County Teachers of the Year. They are true exemplars of the innovative instruction and educational greatness that New Jersey offers to students.”

“The County Teachers of the Year are shining examples of excellence and dedication to educating our students,” said Acting Education Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillian. “We celebrate the extraordinary service of these teachers for their ongoing efforts to ensure that our students succeed both inside and outside of the classroom.”

[The Governor’s Educator of the Year Program](#) promotes a positive school culture by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of outstanding teachers and educational services professionals. Individual schools are encouraged to nominate exceptional educators with diverse backgrounds to ensure that the honorees represent the ethnic/racial diversity of New Jersey.

The County Teachers of the Year will network with educators throughout the state and serve as ambassadors for New Jersey’s public schools throughout the upcoming school year. A panel of educators will select the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year from among the 21 County Teachers 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.

New Jersey’s 2021-2022 County Teachers of the Year

County	First Name	Last Name	Position	School	School District
Atlantic	Jim	House	Science Teacher	Egg Harbor Township High School	Egg Harbor Township
Bergen	Kim	Clancey	English Language Arts Teacher & Professional Development Facilitator	Ridge Ranch Elementary School	Paramus School District
Burlington	Michelle	Poolaw	Mathematics Support Teacher	Hillside Elementary School	Mount Laurel School District
Camden	Sonia	Chugh	English as a Second Language Teacher	LEAP Academy High School, Camden City	LEAP Academy University Charter School
Cape May	Lee Anne	Tarr	Kindergarten & Social Emotional Learning Teacher	Cape May City Elementary School	Cape May City School District
Cumberland	Samantha	Johnson Boyer	Pre-Kindergarten Teacher	C.F. Seabrook School	Upper Deerfield Township School District
Essex	Theresa	Maughan	Social Studies Teacher	East Orange STEM Academy	East Orange School District
Gloucester	Lynne	Bussott	2 nd Grade Teacher	Governor Charles C. Stratton School	Swedesboro-Woolwich School District
Hudson	Kimberley	Madalena	English Language Arts Teacher	Washington Middle School	Harrison School District
Hunterdon	Teresa A.	De Sapio Diaz	Commercial Arts & 3D Animation Teacher	Hunterdon County Polytech School	Hunterdon County Vocational School District

County	First Name	Last Name	Position	School	School District
Mercer	Brittany	Thomas	4 th Grade Teacher & Vice Principal	Robbins Elementary School	Trenton School District
Middlesex	Melissa	Vega	Bilingual English Language Arts Teacher	New Brunswick Middle School	New Brunswick School District
Monmouth	Alyssa	Geary	Special Education and English Language Arts Teacher	Red Bank Middle School	Red Bank Borough School District
Morris	Jonathan	Dowler	Social Studies Teacher	West Morris Mendham High School	West Morris Regional High School District
Ocean	Michael	DeRiggi, Jr.	5th Grade Teacher	North Dover Elementary School	Toms River Regional School District
Passaic	Tammy	Cooper	English Language Arts Teacher	Passaic High School	Passaic School District
Salem	Julie	Knight	Social Studies Teacher	Woodstown High School	Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District
Somerset	Darrin	Wolsko	Science Teacher	Watchung Hills Regional High School	Watchung Hills Regional High School District
Sussex	Shawna	Longo	Music Teacher & Arts Integration Specialist	Durban Avenue School	Hopatcong Borough School District
Union	Dennis	Dagounis	Science Teacher	Roselle Park High School	Roselle Park School District
Warren	Faith	Roncoroni	English Language Arts Teacher	Phillipsburg High School	Phillipsburg School District



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)