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New Jersey Department of Education Announces 2023-2024 County Teachers of the Year

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced the 21 educators who have been named New Jersey’s 2023-2024 County Teachers of the Year.

“I applaud the commitment and professionalism of each of the 21 County Teachers of the Year,” **said Governor Phil Murphy**. “If you want to know why New Jersey’s public schools are rated as among the best in the nation, look no further than these 21 exemplars of the kind of quality teaching that takes place in every school throughout our state.”

“Today’s event not only recognizes New Jersey’s County Teachers of the Year, but also helps elevate the teaching profession,” **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillian, Acting Education Commissioner**. “Teachers have a profound and lasting impact on the growth of their students, and each of the County Teachers of the Year will serve as mentor, role model, and as spokesperson for the teaching profession. I trust these voices encourage even more dynamic individuals to enter the teacher workforce.”

Individual schools nominate exceptional educators for County Teacher of the Year through the Governor’s Educator of the Year Program, which promotes a positive school culture by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of outstanding teachers and educational services professionals. More information is available on the [Governor’s Educator of the Year Program](#) webpage.

The County Teachers of the Year will network with educators throughout the state and serve as ambassadors for New Jersey’s public schools during the upcoming school year.

A panel of educators selects 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 will go on to represent New Jersey in competing for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

New Jersey’s 2023-2024 County Teachers of the Year

County	Teacher	Position	School	School District
Atlantic	Erin Sharpe	Science Teacher	Cedar Creek High School	Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District
Bergen	Gary Whitehead	English Language Arts Teacher	Tenaflly High School	Tenaflly School District
Burlington	Nicola Recla Fischer	Kindergarten Teacher	Captain James Lawrence Elementary School	Burlington City School District
Camden	Ron Smith	Environmental Science Educator	Haddonfield Memorial High School	Haddonfield School District
Cape May	Alison Curvan	3rd Grade Teacher*	Dennis Township Elementary School	Dennis Township School District

County	Teacher	Position	School	School District
Cumberland	Betsy Harrison	Music Teacher	Cumberland Regional High School	Cumberland Regional High School District
Essex	Shamshadeen Mayers	Social Science Teacher	Bloomfield High School	Bloomfield School District
Gloucester	Phillip Neff	Science Teacher	Paulsboro High School	Paulsboro School District
Hudson	Jennifer Donnelly	Science Teacher	Jose Marti STEM Academy	Union City School District
Hunterdon	Gargi Adhikari	Special Education Teacher	Holland Brook School	Readington Township School District
Mercer	Yulieth Le	4th Grade Teacher	Lawrence Intermediate School	Lawrence Township Public Schools
Middlesex	Julie Mercier	English Language Arts Teacher	North Brunswick Township High School	North Brunswick Township School District
Monmouth	Joseph Nappi	Social Studies Teacher	Monmouth Regional High School	Monmouth Regional School District
Morris	Robin Meyh	Health and Physical Education Teacher**	Mendham High School	West Morris Regional School District
Ocean	Jaclyn Potochar	English Language Arts & Science Teacher	Lake Riviera Middle School	Brick Township School District
Passaic	Amanda Rhodes	5th Grade Teacher	School 11	Clifton School District
Salem	Andrea Wendell	Science Teacher	Pittsgrove Township Middle School	Pittsgrove Township School District
Somerset	Corinne Laurie	Health & Physical Education Teacher	North Plainfield Middle School	North Plainfield School District
Sussex	Tara Scrittore	Kindergarten Teacher	Hamburg School	Hamburg School District
Union	Kristen Hickman	STEAM Teacher	Roselle Park Middle School	Roselle Park School District
Warren	Colleen Grzywacz	Vocal Music Teacher	Hackettstown Middle School	Hackettstown School District

* This was the teacher's position at the time of the award; she currently teaches at Stone Harbor Elementary School.

** The teacher is recently retired.



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