



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**For Immediate Release**

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## New Jersey Department of Education Announces 2024-2025 County Teachers of the Year

**Ewing, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced the 21 educators who have been named New Jersey’s 2024-2025 County Teachers of the Year. The educators were recognized at an awards ceremony today at The College of New Jersey in Ewing.

“New Jersey’s public schools are considered the best in the nation because of our outstanding teachers, and this year’s 21 County Teachers of the Year exemplify that excellence,” **said Governor Phil Murphy**. “Exceptional educators are the key to ensuring that students across New Jersey will have a bright future.”

“The dynamic educators that we recognize today serve as ambassadors of the profession,” **said Acting Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. “When we highlight the great efforts from our 21 County Teachers of the Year, we shine a spotlight not only on the accomplishments of these teachers, but also on all of the schools and districts that support these remarkable educators to show why New Jersey schools lead the nation.”

Individual schools select Teachers of the Year, who are then eligible to apply for County Teacher of the Year through the Governor’s Educator of the Year Program, which was established to promote a positive school culture by acknowledging the commitment 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 colleagues throughout the state and serve as representatives for New Jersey’s public schools during 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 will go on to represent New Jersey in competing for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

### New Jersey’s 2024-2025 County Teachers of the Year

County	Teacher	Position	School	School District
Atlantic	Carly Broomhead	Visual Arts Teacher	Emma C. Attales Middle School	Absecon School District
Bergen	Margarita Diakos	Special Education Teacher	Ramsey High School	Ramsey School District
Burlington	Margaret Fanourgakis	Health & Physical Education Teacher	Shawnee High School	Lenape Regional High School District
Camden	Stacey Brown-Downham	Elementary Reading Interventionist	J. F. Tatem Elementary School	Haddonfield School District
Cape May	Antonio Martín Franco	Spanish, Health & Physical Education Teacher	Stone Harbor Elementary School	Avalon Stone Harbor School District
Cumberland	Karolina Mills	English as a Second Language Teacher	Marie D. Durand Elementary School	Vineland School District
Essex	El Houcin Houssam	Mathematics Teacher	West Side High School	Newark School District
Gloucester	Vanessa Poggioli	Mathematics Teacher	Thomas E. Bowe Middle School	Glassboro School District

County	Teacher	Position	School	School District
Hudson	Kelly Carroll	Multi-Sensory Reading Specialist	Mary J. Donohoe Community School	Bayonne School District
Hunterdon	Meghan Luick	Mathematics Teacher	North Hunterdon High School	North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District
Mercer	Nicole Hamlet	Biology Teacher	Trenton Central High School	Trenton School District
Middlesex	Kristen Johnson	Social Studies Teacher	Carteret Middle School	Carteret School District
Monmouth	Sara Mazzone	English Teacher	Red Bank Regional High School	Red Bank Regional High School District
Morris	Alyssa Guagenti	Gifted & Talented & Special Education Teacher	Jefferson Township Middle School	Jefferson Township School District
Ocean	Jill Falletta	First Grade Teacher	Beach Haven School	Beach Haven School District
Passaic	Bernadette Orsita	Spanish Teacher	Manchester Regional High School	Manchester Regional High School District
Salem	Deanna Miller	Agri-Science Teacher	Woodstown High School	Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District
Somerset	Stefanie Lachenauer	Social Studies Teacher	Montgomery Upper Middle School	Montgomery Township School District
Sussex	Mary Houghtaling	English Teacher	Kittatinny Regional High School	Kittatinny Regional School District
Union	Alejandro Mejía	Spanish Teacher	David Brearley Middle-High School	Kenilworth School District
Warren	Jennifer Mazziotta-Walter	Visual Arts & Gifted & Talented Teacher	Harmony Township School	Harmony Township School District



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