



2015 *Ohio Teacher of the Year* Selection Process

HISTORY

Since 1969, Ohio has been a part of the *National Teacher of the Year Program*, administered by the Council of Chief School State Officers in the United States of America. It is the highest recognition that a teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. This program was created to honor and promote excellence in teaching and the teaching profession. This program recognizes teachers for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students reach their full potential.

LOCAL

Each school district, chartered community school, and chartered nonpublic school is asked to reflect on their outstanding educators. Principals and superintendents are invited to nominate an educator for the *Ohio Teacher of the Year* (OTOY) who meets the criteria set forth by the OTOY Program. ([Guidelines and Instructions](#)) **At the local district level, the nominees are reviewed internally. Each school district, chartered community school, and chartered nonpublic school must narrow their pool of nominees, conduct their own process for selecting their candidate and submit only one nomination for consideration to the State Board District Territory Lead. The State Board of Education Territory Lead will have each candidate complete an application. All applications must be completed by May 23, 2014. Selection committees evaluate the applications. One candidate will be selected to represent the territory, which will be forwarded to the state level competition.** Each OTOY nominee must be currently teaching and hold a valid Ohio teaching license. College and university teachers/professors are ineligible, as are school personnel whose major responsibilities are administration, curriculum or supervision.

Each application must contain the appropriate signatures affirming he/she is the district's nominee. Nominees will be asked to provide a biographical sketch and respond to a series of questions that include evidence of their collaboration and involvement in the school community, exemplary teaching practices, and beliefs on education issues. The revised application will include measurements that are aligned to current teaching standards. Nominees also will be asked to provide three letters of support and send the completed application to the Ohio Department of Education for review. School districts are encouraged to recognize their teacher of the year at local award ceremonies.

STATE

A state selection panel will meet in June/July in Columbus to review candidates' written applications and choose four or five finalists. (See OTOY Timeline) The panel will consist of a representative from elementary principals, secondary principals, superintendents, local school

board, teacher's union, Ohio P.T.A., nonpublic schools, the business community, past *Teachers of the Year* and other exemplary educators.

The selection panel will interview each of the four or five finalists in June/July in Columbus and select a winner. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will announce the Teacher of the Year in September. All applicants will be notified of the winner. The OTOY will begin serving as Ohio's Teacher of the Year for the current academic year, assuming all duties and honors in the state and at the national level. The *Ohio Teacher of the Year* will be invited to apply for the [National Teacher of the Year](#) honor by November 1st, 2014.

NATIONAL

A selection panel authorized by the national sponsors evaluates the National Teacher of the Year state nominations and selects four national finalists. The name of the National Teacher of the Year is announced at a White House ceremony in the spring.