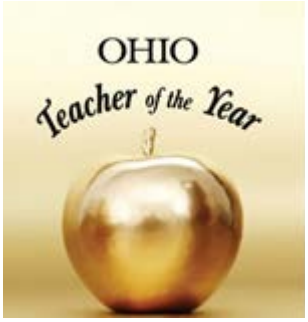


# 2015
# *Ohio Teacher of the Year*
# Guidelines and Instructions

The classroom teacher is the backbone of the American educational system. Teacher quality/effectiveness is the most important school-based factor impacting student learning. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the learning environment where children flourish and grow. The mission of the Ohio Teacher of the Year Program is to honor, promote and celebrate excellence in the teaching profession.

## Nominations

School districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic schools are encouraged to participate in this program**. Teachers must be nominated by a principal or superintendent. Each local district will conduct their own process for selecting their candidate. Only one nominee per local district will be chosen and then submitted to the State Board District Territory Lead for consideration. All district nominated teachers will be invited by the Territory Lead of their State Board District to complete an application. Each State Board of Education territory will have a selection committee evaluate all the nominees. One candidate will be selected to represent the territory, which will be forwarded to the state level competition. At the state level, five candidates will be chosen. Each of the finalists will be interviewed and the Ohio Teacher of the Year will be chosen from that group. (See Nomination Link)**

## Eligibility

- Each teacher nominated must be a currently teaching Pre-Kindergarten through 12 grades with at least seven years of experience and hold a valid Ohio teaching license.
- The teacher must have plans to remain teaching in the classroom during and after their year as Ohio's Teacher of the Year.

## Selection Criteria

- **An Exemplary Teacher…**
  - Inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn in a climate of caring and respect.
  - Displays relevancy and expertise in content areas.
  - Maintains a record of superior teaching performance as evidenced by student learning gains in annual performance assessments and recognition of work.
  - Actively engages in targeted, collaborative, and sustained professional development.
  - Demonstrates leadership in educational activities at the school, district, state and/or, national levels.

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**Contact Information:** Patty Griffin at OTOY@ode.state.oh.us or 614.995.3735
or contact your State Board of Education Territory Lead

- Engages parents/families in the learning process to enhance student achievement.
- Shows evidence and dedication to his/her community though active participation in service-oriented projects, volunteer work, etc.
- Is precise and articulate.

## Responsibilities (Note; this list is not exhaustive)

The Ohio Teacher of the Year serves as a spokesperson and representative for Ohio teachers.
The following list is comprised of some of their duties:

- makes public appearances across the state,
- attends a variety of state education meetings,
- provides state or local workshops in area of expertise,
- serves on state committees,
- attends the *National Teacher of the Year Conference*
- attends *Space Camp* in Huntsville, Alabama,
- applies for the position of *National Teacher of the Year,*
- attends the Presidential Ceremony in Washington, DC to honor all state Teachers of the Year.

*The school district that employs the 2015 OTOY will receive funds from the Ohio Department of Education to cover the teachers' expenses for a year. At a minimum, these expenses include up to 20 release days, travel, mileage, and other meeting costs.*

## Instructions for the *2015 Ohio Teacher of the Year* Application

- Provide all information requested in the application form.
- Provide the original plus five copies of the entire application, including the letters of support. Staple each set of copies in the upper left corner.
- Provide labeled and referenced evidence/artifacts to clearly support the responses to various questions asked. An additional ten pages of evidence/artifacts are optional.
- Provide signatures from the nominee, the nominee's principal, and the nominee's district superintendent, and the nominee's Territory Lead on the original application form.
- Limit the responses to the number of pages indicated in each question. Only applications within the maximum number of pages, as stated in each section and for a total of 25 will be accepted. This includes the optional evidence/artifacts.
- Use font size no smaller than 11 point and double space all responses.