



**For immediate release:**  
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### **State Board District 1 Teacher of the Year Announced**

Mark Suter is 2018 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 1 and one of five finalists for 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year, according to an announcement made by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria. A computer science teacher, Suter teaches multiple courses at Elida High School and is the developer and lead instructor for a student entrepreneurship club called Grit9.

“Teachers are changing lives and creating futures – not only for the students, but for our communities, our state and our nation,” DeMaria said. “The Ohio Teacher of the Year program recognizes influential and inspiring educators who demonstrate some of the things I love most about teachers: they take our system to higher heights and continue the path toward excellence.”

The Ohio Department of Education invited school districts to nominate teachers for the District 1 award. State Board of Education member Linda Haycock worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select Suter as the recipient.

Haycock said, “Mark is the epitome of an innovative and creative teacher who constantly pushes the boundaries of what a typical classroom looks like. He is an expert in his content area, he collaborates with colleagues, students and professionals habitually, and he instills creativity, passion and 21st century skills in every student he encounters.”

Elida Local School District Superintendent Joel Mengerink said, “Mark Suter is inspiring a generation of diverse leaders who will improve our community with a variety of skills. He encourages students to network with business professionals, attend conferences, mentor younger peers and become innovators in their communities.”

This fall, the state superintendent will announce the Ohio Teacher of the Year, who is selected from the pool of State Board district winners by a panel of education and community stakeholders. The Ohio Teacher of the Year will represent our state in the national Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers in 2018.

-30-

**Note:** Photographs and more information about State Board District Teachers of the Year are available [here](#).