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### **Welenc is State Board District 2 Teacher of the Year**

Jay Welenc is 2018 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 2, according to an announcement made by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria. With 34 years of teaching experience, including 15 at his current position, Welenc is an accomplished instrumental music teacher at the Toledo School for the Arts.

“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 2 award. State Board of Education member Kathleen McGervey worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select Welenc as the recipient.

McGervey said, “Mr. Welenc is a highly respected, innovative educator whose talent for music and teaching is evident not just in his classroom and community leadership, but in the accolades his student ensembles have consistently earned for over a decade.”

Toledo School for the Arts Artistic Director David Saygers said, “Beyond all of his contributions and accomplishments, what stands out most in Jay’s work and career is the devotion his students bring to their studies and to his classroom. There is a real enthusiasm at work – his students apply themselves with zeal. It’s a remarkably effective and efficient classroom.”

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.

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