

2017 OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR
APPLICATION PACKET
and **PROGRAM GUIDE**

DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016



OKLAHOMA
TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

CEREMONY, AUGUST 30, 2016
OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR PARK

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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OKLAHOMA RECOGNIZES GREAT TEACHERS

Great Oklahoma teachers challenge, motivate, and inspire their students to do their best; they make learning exciting, engaging, and continuous; they are respected by their peers as well as local school officials, parents, and students; they are caring and creative, seeking to enrich the lives of their students and build a better future for us all. Honor classroom teachers at the local level by participating in the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Program. This packet will guide you through the process.

CONTACT

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Events Coordinator
(405) 522-8767
martha.eaves@sde.ok.gov



OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

The Oklahoma Teacher of the Year (TOY) Program is conducted through the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and is made possible through a partnership with the State Fair of Oklahoma. The overwhelming success of the program is credited to the numerous businesses, associations, organizations, and universities that typically present gifts to the Rising Star recipients, 12 TOY finalists, and the State Teacher of the Year. Examples of past gifts include tuition waivers, tickets to athletic events, classroom technologies, gift cards, cash awards, organization memberships, and the use of a motor vehicle. The Oklahoma Teacher of the Year is encouraged to participate in the National Teacher of the Year Program sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

Any full-time pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 teacher whose primary role is leading instruction in the classroom of a state-accredited school is eligible for nomination. The qualifications of the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year program mirror those of the National Teacher of the Year program. All Oklahoma Teacher of the Year honorees agree to participate in the national program. It is important that every teacher be given the opportunity to participate in this recognition process. **No minimum teaching experience is required to be qualified for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.**

Nominees should be exceptionally skillful and dedicated classroom teachers who are planning to continue in an active teaching status. According to the director of the National Teacher of the Year Program, **a classroom teacher is one who teaches a group of students every day within the confines of the classroom and does not have administrative duties.** Nominees should communicate effectively and demonstrate creative and imaginative teaching on a day-to-day basis. The nominee should have the ability to inspire the value of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities and assure academic success. Nominations should be made without regard to age, sex, race, or religion.

SELECTION PROCESS

At the local district level, the Teacher of the Year program is coordinated through the district superintendent. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to make sure that every teacher is given the opportunity to participate in the recognition process. It is important to emphasize that the search is not for "the best teacher," but for one who exemplifies the finest in the profession.

LOCAL DISTRICT SELECTION PROCESS

The local school district determines the local selection process and announces the local Teacher of the Year.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee reviews all portfolios received and selects twelve finalists. The Congressional District Map is enclosed.

STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The state selection committee will follow procedures identified below for each of the twelve finalists in order to select the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year:

- Conduct an interview.
- View video of classroom teaching. Each of the twelve finalists will be responsible for submitting a ten-minute video of classroom teaching.
- Recommend the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year to the State Superintendent.

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

NEW in 2016: In light of the current teacher shortage crisis, it is important that districts have ample time to hire a replacement for the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Therefore, during the school year when he or she is selected, the teacher will remain in the classroom, leaving the following year to serve as an ambassador. The current Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, Shawn Sheehan, will be out of the classroom during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years as we transition from a same-school-year to next-school-year ambassador model.

EDWARD C. JOULLIAN III SCHOLARSHIP

Edward C. Joullian III honorably served the state of Oklahoma as chairman of the State Fair Board of Directors for ten years. As a founder of the partnership between the Teacher of the Year program and the Oklahoma State Fair, he has shown his dedication to the education of the children of this great state. The Edward C. Joullian III Scholarship was established by the State Fair Board to encourage students to continue their education, recognize the State Teacher of the Year's school district, and celebrate the contributions of Mr. Joullian to the lives of Oklahoma's young people.

In 1998, the \$5,000 scholarship was unveiled during the State Teacher of the Year recognition ceremony and is awarded annually to a graduating senior from the Teacher of the Year's school district. It is awarded based upon a student's overall scholastic, leadership, and civic potential.

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

To participate for **recognition at the ceremony only**, submit pages 7, 8, 9, and 10. A binder/notebook is not required.

To participate in the **state competition**, submit all items in portfolio form. The portfolio must be on 8.5 by 11-inch paper, **be placed in a binder**, and organized in numerical order. All essay sections must be typed in 12-point standard font, Times New Roman, double-spaced with one-inch margins around each page. You may include dividers in the portfolio. **Judges request that you follow instructions carefully and maintain a professional format.** The portfolio must include the following:

1. Statement of Nomination from the local school district, signed by the superintendent (form enclosed)
2. Basic Data Sheet (form enclosed)
3. Educational History and Professional Development Activities: List and date your participation in professional organizations, service on committees, commissions, task forces, and presentations. (Limit response to two double-spaced pages.)
4. Assurance Statement signed by the superintendent (form enclosed)
5. Photograph: One (1) Color photo of yourself suitable for publication and press release (300 dpi). A 5 by 7-inch size is required by the National Teacher of the Year program. Please do not adhere picture to the page. A professional-style photograph is recommended by the judges. The 12 Finalists will be required to send a high-resolution digital photo for media use.
6. Professional Biography: What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education. (Limit response to two double-spaced pages.)

7. Community Involvement: Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities including volunteer work, civic responsibilities, and other group activities. (Limit response to one double-spaced page.)
8. Professional Statements written by the nominee.
 - State your Philosophy of Teaching: Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style? (Limit response to two double-spaced pages.)
 - Education Issues and Trends: What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address one in depth, outlining possible causes, effects, and resolutions. (Limit response to two double-spaced pages.)
 - The Teaching Profession: What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession? What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession? (Limit response to two double-spaced pages.)
9. Oklahoma Teacher of the Year: As the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession. What would be your message? What would you communicate to professional educators and the general public? (Limit response to one double-spaced page.)
10. Letters of Endorsement: **Submit only three letters** supporting your nomination from superintendents, principals, colleagues, parents, students, or civic leaders. **(Each letter should be a maximum of one page.)**

The electronic version of this document is available at www.ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-teacher-year. Please do not include additional materials other than those listed. Videos are not to be submitted until selected as a Finalist.

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PORTFOLIO

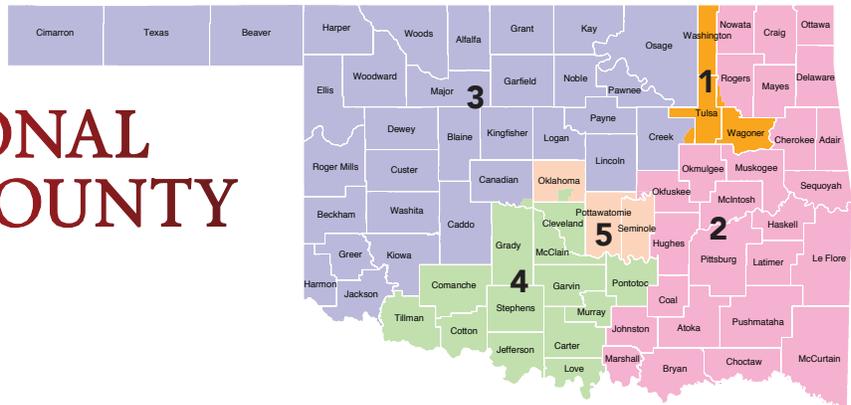
Portfolios must be received by or postmarked no later than **Friday, May 13, 2016**. Submit one original portfolio to:

Martha Eaves, Events Coordinator
 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Program
 Oklahoma State Department of Education
 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 115
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599
 405-522-8769 • martha.eaves@sde.ok.gov



NOTE: Portfolios may be picked up at the Teacher of the Year Ceremony. All remaining portfolios that are not picked up at the ceremony will be available at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS COUNTY MAP



Congressional District 1

Tulsa Washington
 Wagoner

Congressional District 2

Adair Le Flore
 Atoka Marshall
 Bryan Mayes
 Cherokee McCurtain
 Choctaw McIntosh
 Coal Muskogee
 Craig Nowata
 Delaware Okmulgee
 Haskell Ottawa
 Hughes Pittsburg
 Okfuskee Pushmataha
 Johnston Rogers
 Latimer Sequoyah

Congressional District 3

Alfalfa Kay
 Beaver Kingfisher
 Beckham Kiowa
 Blaine Lincoln
 Caddo Logan
 Canadian Major
 Creek Noble
 Custer Osage
 Dewey Pawnee
 Ellis Payne
 Garfield Roger Mills
 Grant Texas
 Greer Washita
 Harmon Woods
 Harper Woodward
 Jackson

Congressional District 4

Carter Love
 Cleveland McClain
 Comanche Murray
 Cotton Pontotoc
 Garvin Stephens
 Grady Tillman
 Jefferson

Congressional District 5

Oklahoma Seminole
 Pottawatomie

STATEMENT OF NOMINATION

Please use the form provided. An electronic version of the document is available at www.ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-teacher-year. Click on the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Application tab.

The _____ School District in the County of _____
SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNTY

nominates the following teacher for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

Check One:

- Congressional District 1 Congressional District 2 Congressional District 3
 Congressional District 4 Congressional District 5 Congressional District 6

Check One:

- MR. MS. MRS. DR.

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

SCHOOL SITE NAME SCHOOL SITE LEVEL(S)

SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS CITY ZIP

SCHOOL PHONE

SUPERINTENDENT'S SIGNATURE



DATE

BASIC DATA FORM

NAME OF NOMINEE

HOME PHONE NUMBER

CELL PHONE NUMBER

HOME ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS

SUMMER EMAIL ADDRESS

ACHIEVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION Check One: YES NO IN PROCESS

LIST AREAS OF NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

GRADE LEVEL TAUGHT

SUBJECT(S)

YEARS IN PRESENT POSITION

TOTAL YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT Check One: MR. MS. MRS. DR.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMER PHONE NUMBER

SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMER EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME OF PRINCIPAL Check One: MR. MS. MRS. DR.

PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER PHONE NUMBER

PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER EMAIL ADDRESS

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION (List most recent first)

Name of College or University	Dates Attended	Degree Earned (i.e., B.A. in Math)
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Name of High School Attended	City/State
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EMPLOYMENT RECORD OF SERVICE (List most recent first)

Name of School District	Position Held (Include grade level and/or subject area)	Dates
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS (List most recent first)

Name	Position Held (Include offices held and/or other relevant activities)	Dates
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ASSURANCE STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby assures that _____

is a full-time classroom teacher without administrative duties who expects to continue in an active teaching position in the _____ School District during the _____ school year.

It is understood that if our local teacher of the year is selected to be a **finalist**, he/she will be required to submit a video, not to exceed ten (10) minutes of classroom teaching, and attend interview sessions with the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Selection Committee to be held in Oklahoma City.

In addition, Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year will also be Oklahoma's Ambassador of Teaching. As Ambassador, the teacher will share his or her knowledge and resources with educators around the state. It is understood that if our local teacher of the year is selected as **Oklahoma Teacher of the Year**, he/she will be released from his/her classroom duties during the 2017-2018 school year. The State Legislature has funded the Oklahoma Ambassador of Teaching position to provide for a full-time certified teacher in the classroom of Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year.

SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT

DATE

PHOTOGRAPH

One (1) color photo of yourself suitable for publication; a 5 x 7-inch size is required by the National Teacher of the year program. **Please do not adhere picture to the page.** Finalists will be required to send a high-resolution digital photo for media use.

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

(Limit your response to two double-spaced pages)

What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher?

Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(Limit your response to one double-spaced page)

Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities including volunteer work, civic responsibilities, and other group activities.

PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

(Limit your response to two double-spaced pages)

Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

EDUCATION ISSUES AND TRENDS

(Limit your response to two double-spaced pages)

What do you consider the major public education issues today?

Address in-depth, outlining possible causes, effects, and resolutions.

THE TEACHING PROFESSION

(Limit your response to two double-spaced pages)

What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?

What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Limit your response to one double-spaced page)

As Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession.

What would be your message?

What would you communicate to professional educators and to the general public?

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

(Each a maximum of one page)

Include three letters supporting your nomination from superintendents, principals, administrators, colleagues, parents, students/former students, or civic leaders.