



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Three grey stars of varying sizes are arranged to the left of the text "TEACHER OF THE YEAR".The logo for the Tennessee Department of Education, featuring a red square with "TN" in white, followed by the text "Department of Education" in a smaller font.

Overview of the Tennessee  
Teacher of the Year Program

---

## **Sarah Brown**

*Coordinator of Educator  
Recognition and Communications,  
Educator Effectiveness Team*





# BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

## ACADEMICS

---

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

## STUDENT READINESS

---

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

## EDUCATORS

---

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



# Agenda

1. Benefits of Participation
2. Overview of the Selection Process
3. Panel Discussion with Former Tennessee Teachers of the Year
4. Q&A





# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## Program Goals

The goal of the Tennessee Teacher of the Year program is to **recognize** and **celebrate** the wealth of **excellent teachers** that exist across the state.

We applaud teachers who devote their professional lives to **enriching the lives of Tennessee students** and who demonstrate exceptional **gains in student achievement**.

# Learning Objectives

Following the completion of this training, learners will be able to:

- Identify the benefits of participating in the Tennessee Teacher of the Year program.
- Understand the phases of selection for the Teacher of the Year program





# ★ ★ ★ TEACHER OF THE YEAR

TN Department of  
Education

- Please remain on mute throughout the session until asked to unmute and share.
- If you have any questions or comments throughout the presentation, please put them in the chat.





## **Answer in the Chat:**

What is one thing you hope to gain from this session?

# BENEFITS of PARTICIPATING



RECOGNITION BY LEVEL	LOCAL	REGIONAL	STATE
Celebrated for making exceptional gains with students by colleagues, leaders, and community members.	✓	✓	✓
Honored at the annual Educators of Excellence banquet		✓	✓
Serve as an advisor and advocate for state-level programs through the Tennessee Teacher Advisory Council.		✓	✓
Represent Tennessee in the National Teacher of the Year program.			✓



# OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS



State

Grand Division

Region

District

School



# School- and District-Level Selection



To participate in the Tennessee Teacher of the Year process, **you will first need to be selected as your school and/or district Teacher of the Year representative.** Each school and district selects their Teacher of the Year representatives through a unique process. *If you are interested in learning more about your local process, please contact your principal or district instructional supervisor.*



Each district is eligible to nominate three educators to participate in the region-level selection process, with one educator representing each of the three grade bands: *PreK & Elementary, Middle, and High.*



**District nominations were due on December 1.**





# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Answer in the Chat:

True or False – You must be nominated at the district level to submit a state-level application.



Answer in the Chat:

**True**- You must be nominated at the district level to submit a state-level application

# Region-Level Selection



After you have been nominated at the district-level, **you must complete the part I application by Feb. 4, 2024**, to continue to the region-level selection process. *The part I application can be found on the Tennessee Teacher of the Year website, and in a direct email sent to you by the Tennessee Teacher of the Year coordinator.*



**DESCRIPTION:** The part I application contains basic information about yourself and your school, three written response questions, and an optional opportunity to submit up to 3 pages of supporting documentation.



**SCORING:** After all applications are submitted by **Feb. 4**, regional scoring committees will identify one region-level semi-finalists in each of the three grade bands for each of the nine regions for a total of 27 region-level semi-finalists across the state. All region-level applicants will be notified of their application decision **by April 1, 2024**.

# Grand Division-Level Selection



If you are selected as a region-level semi-finalist, the Tennessee Teacher of the Year coordinator will provide the part II application to you via email by April 1.

**Part II applications must be submitted by May 12.**



**DESCRIPTION:** The part II application contains:

- two new written response questions,
- an opportunity to submit additional supporting documentation,
- a professional resume,
- three letters of recommendation,
- a professional biography
- a video response , and
- a professional headshot.



**SCORING:** The entire part II application will be scored by a statewide scoring committee who will identify one finalist in each region of the state for a total of nine region-level finalists.

All applicants will be notified of their application decision **June 2, 2024.**



# State-Level Selection



**The nine region-level finalists will then complete an interview.** The interview will be held virtually via Teams.



**DESCRIPTION:** During the interview, finalists will be asked several questions regarding their professional growth, teaching philosophy, and achievements. Additionally, finalists will be asked to share a prepared, two-minute speech on a topic given in advance of the interview.



**SCORING:** A statewide scoring committee will utilize both the application and interview components to identify one educator to represent each of the East, Middle, and West Grand Divisions as well as one educator to represent the entire state as the Tennessee Teacher of the Year.

# Panel Discussion



**Missy Testerman**  
*2023-24 Tennessee Teacher of the Year*  
**Rogersville Elementary School**  
Rogersville City Schools



**Melissa Collins**  
*2020-23 Tennessee Teacher of the Year*  
**John P. Freeman Optional School**  
Memphis-Shelby County Schools



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Questions?

# Additional Resources



- **[Tennessee Teacher of the Year Website](#)**: Includes specific program criteria with resources for applicants and 2024-25 cycle-specific information.
- **Teacher of the Year Applicant Series: Webinar #2 - Approaching the Part 1 Teacher of the Year Application**: Jan. 16 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. CST
- **Teacher of the Year Applicant Series: Webinar #3 - Approaching the Part 2 Teacher of the Year Application**: Apr. 9 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. CST
- **Weekly Office Hours**: Held on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. CST from January 22 to April 10. *Access office hours [here](#).* Office Hours will NOT be held from Monday, February 5 - Monday, April 1. Office hours will resume on Monday, April 8.



# ★ ★ ★ TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## Answer in the Chat:

As a result of this webinar, what next step will you take to prepare for the Tennessee Teacher of the Year process?





# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**Thank You!**

For questions, contact Sarah Brown at [Sarah.Brown@tn.gov](mailto:Sarah.Brown@tn.gov)

*Permission is granted to use and copy these materials for non-commercial educational purposes with attribution credit to the "Tennessee Department of Education". If you wish to use these materials for reasons other than non-commercial educational purposes, please contact Joanna Collins ([Joanna.Collins@tn.gov](mailto:Joanna.Collins@tn.gov)).*

