

Hello Evaluation Configurators:

### Headlines:

- **DUE:** RISE Award Nominations– Classified Staff Recognition
- **DUE:** Student Growth Portfolio Teacher Rosters
- **NEW:** Library Media Specialist Evaluation Training
- **JOIN:** Upcoming Office Hours
- **CELEBRATE:** Educator Recognition – 2024-25 Tennessee Teacher of the Year

### News and Action Items

#### **Nominations Open: 2024-25 Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE)**

Nominations for the 2024-25 Tennessee [Recognizing Inspirational School Employees \(RISE\) Award](#) are now open!

Anyone—directors, principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may submit [nominations](#) by **Sept. 16**. Certified employees are **not** eligible for this award.

Classified school employees include any of the following occupational specialties working in pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools/non-profits. Examples are:

- paraprofessionals,
- clerical and administrative services,
- transportation services,
- food and nutrition services,
- custodial and maintenance services,
- security services,
- health and student services,
- technical services, and
- skilled trades.

**For more detailed information on the Tennessee RISE Award, please visit the [RISE Award website](#).**

With questions, please contact [Sarah Brown](#).

**Key Deadlines for September (TEAM Timeline)**

\*Be sure to check the [TEAM website](#) regularly for updates.

Date	Action	Owner	Resources	Contact
Sept. 27	Deadline to submit portfolio teacher roster	Portfolio Leads	<a href="#">Portfolio Resources   TEAM-TN</a>	<a href="mailto:Portfolio.Questions@tn.gov">Portfolio.Questions@tn.gov</a>

**TEAM Resource Spotlight**

**TEAM Resources Added**

**[NEW! Library Media Specialist Evaluation Training](#)**

In response to feedback from evaluators, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new TEAM support module on the [TeachALL](#) platform to support Library Media Specialist (LMS) observations. This training will help observers become more insightful about and confident in completing high-quality Library Media Specialist observations that provide well-crafted feedback.

This training will prepare evaluators to

- tailor their support for educators providing library and media instruction,
- provide consistent high-quality feedback for educator planning and delivery,
- guide growth through evidence collection that aligns with TEAM best practices, and
- empower educators and foster excellence in student support.

We invite evaluators to explore the Library Media Specialist training on the TeachALL platform. 4 [TASL](#) credit hours are awarded at the completion of the course.

To enroll in this course, please follow this [link](#).  
 Guidance on how to access the Teach ALL platform can be found this [link](#).  
 More information can be found on the [TEAM website](#) and any questions can be directed to [TEAM.Questions@tn.gov](mailto:TEAM.Questions@tn.gov).

## TNCompass Resource Spotlight

### TNCompass Resources

Growth and Achievement Selections Report- This report can be used to ensure all educators have achievement and growth measure selections and criteria entered in TNCompass. The report can be run at the system or school level. The [Growth and Achievement Selection Import Quick Start Guide](#) walks through the steps to enter achievement and growth measure selections in TNCompass.

## Office Hours

### Office Hours

- **Evaluation Configurator Office Hour**, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024. 10:00 a.m. CT [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Portfolio Lead Office Hour**, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, 1:00 p.m. CT [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **Charter School Office Hour**, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m. CT [Join the meeting now](#)

## Celebrate

### Celebrate

- **August 23, 2024, Tennessee Department of Education hosted the Excellence in Education 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Anniversary of the Tennessee Teacher of the Year Event.**
  - 65<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Teacher of the Year, Bryan Kerns, Dobyns-Bennett High School, Kingsport City Schools



- **The 2024-25 Tennessee Teacher of the Year Grand Division Winners are:**

- The East Grand Division Winner, Natalee Elkins, from Holston Middle School in Knox County Schools
- The Middle Grand Division Winner, Kaity Castleman, Hickory Elementary School in Warren County Schools,
- The West Grand Division Winner, Jenny Kiesel, Lakeland Preparatory School in Lakeland School System.



- **TDOE also began a new partnership with the Bojangles Foundation for the Tennessee Teacher of the Year Program. Every district teacher of the year nominee will receive a box of books and a Bojangles gift card.**



- **This year, Educator Recognition launched a new award for Novice Teachers. The inaugural cohort of Novice Teachers of the Year will serve on the Emerging Educators Council to engage with the department and partners.**

(photo from left to right: front, Principal Jeanny Phillips for Michael Martin, Oneida Special School District; Jamy Swinney, Greeneville City Schools; Darbee Farley, Franklin Special School District; Jordan Wagers, Cleveland City Schools; Kari Mays, Hamilton County Schools; Matthew Fox, Hamblen County Schools; back: Connor Halm, Valor Collegiate Academy; Lindsey Scott, Athens City Schools; Geri Poarch, Giles County Schools; Alissa Betchick, Germantown Municipal Schools.)



- **The 2023 Tennessee Milken Educator was also awarded at the Excellence in Education event: Assistant Principal Abbey Kidwell at Clinton Elementary School in Clinton City Schools.**



- **Additionally, the 2024-25 PAEMST Awardees were recognized:**
  - Lauren Fluharty, Mathematics – Discovery School, Murfreesboro City Schools
  - Deborah Shuler, Science – Poplar Grove Middle School, Franklin Special School District
  - Cathy Cambron, Mathematics – Hickman Elementary School, Metro Nashville Public Schools, and
  - Kelly Carey, Science – Tusculum Elementary School, Metro Nashville Public Schools.



For questions regarding any of the Educator Recognition Programs, please contact [Sarah.Brown@tn.gov](mailto:Sarah.Brown@tn.gov)

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All monthly evaluation configurator emails can be found on the [TEAM website](#). To see past emails, visit the homepage and scroll down to “Monthly Emails.”

Thank you for all that you do to support Tennessee’s students and teachers!

Best,

Educator Effectiveness  
[TEAM.Questions@tn.gov](mailto:TEAM.Questions@tn.gov)