



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

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Alabama
State Board
of Education

**THE “SWEET 16” OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED TODAY
FOR ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

“Dedicated Professionals Fully Committed to Academic Excellence”

Montgomery, Ala. – Exemplary teachers inspire students to reach their full potential by instilling in them a desire to become lifelong learners. Alabama’s teachers are the foundation for excellence in education on a state and national level.

Today, 16 outstanding educators have officially been selected as finalists for the 2026-2027 Alabama Teacher of the Year (TOY) “Sweet 16” recognition. Each educator promotes excellence in teaching and learning in the classroom.

The Alabama Teacher of the Year program is one of our state’s oldest and most esteemed awards. This year’s 16 finalists rose into consideration for this award from a highly skilled group of over 155 top educators who submitted official applications for this year’s state honor.

Alabama State Department of Education - 2026-2027 District Teachers of the Year

Elizabeth Eubanks Von Hofe

Baldwin County School System – Spanish Fort Elementary School
District I Elementary Teacher of the Year

Courtney Amanda Davidson

Coffee County School System – Zion Chapel High School
District I Secondary Teacher of the Year

Jessica Freeman

Dothan City School System – Carver School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology
District II Elementary Teacher of the Year

Kelly Sasser

Phenix City School System – Central High School
District II Secondary Teacher of the Year

Katie Smith

Vestavia Hills City School System – Vestavia Hills Elementary East
District III Elementary Teacher of the Year

Hannah Peterson

Vestavia Hills City School System – Vestavia Hills High School
District III Secondary Teacher of the Year

Kathryn Ann Busby

Tuscaloosa City School System – Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary
District IV Elementary Teacher of the Year

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Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Tracie West
District II

Kelly Mooney
District III
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District IV

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District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

2026-2027 Alabama TOY 16 Finalists Announcement

John David Booth

Tuscaloosa County School System – Echols Middle School
District IV Secondary Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Ann Asberry

Mobile County School System – Council Traditional School
District V Elementary Teacher of the Year

Eshwaa Godfrey

Selma City School System – Selma High School
District V Secondary Teacher of the Year

Lacy Cameron

Cullman City School System – East Elementary School
District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year

Morgan Brooks

Albertville City School System – Albertville High School
District VI Secondary Teacher of the Year

Amanda Green

Florence City School System – Harlan Elementary School
District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year

Joseph T. Elliott

Sheffield City School System – Sheffield Jr. High School
District VII Secondary Teacher of the Year

Lindy Vizzinia

Fort Payne City School System – Wills Valley Elementary School
District VIII Elementary Teacher of the Year

Michael C. Fabbri May

Athens City School System – Athens High School
District VIII Secondary Teacher of the Year

Alabama’s Teacher of the Year spends the school year serving as a full-time, official ambassador for both education and the teaching profession.

Alabama’s representative is also a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Program and conducts professional-level workshops to various groups at the local and national levels. This year’s group of 16 outstanding educators will soon be narrowed to the Top Four.

Reflecting on her amazing experience this year, current Alabama Teacher of the Year and one of the Top Five Finalists for the National Teacher of the Year, Katie Collins, said, “We are proud to have this opportunity to extend congratulations to these outstanding educators. They all personify excellence, classroom leadership, and represent the great dedication and commitment required to become an outstanding teacher. Each is truly a wonderful candidate for this coveted accolade. We cannot wait to see who will be named the 2026-2027 Alabama Teacher of the Year. Each candidate exemplifies excellence and outstanding classroom leadership.”

Our 2026-2027 Alabama Teacher of the Year will officially be announced by the Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama State Department of Education in May.

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