



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED –  
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON K-8 SCHOOL’S REGGIE WHITE  
SELECTED AS THE 2022-2023 TOP EDUCATOR**

*“Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies Secondary Teacher William Edmonds  
Named State’s Alternate Teacher of the Year!”*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – A special event was held at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts this evening. The Alabama State Board of Education officially announced this year’s Alabama Teacher of the Year and Alternate State Teacher of the Year.



This exciting event narrowed the list of 16 finalists announced earlier to our state’s two most outstanding educators.

Mr. Reggie White, who teaches at Booker T. Washington K-8 School, has been named the 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year (TOY).

He will serve as the state’s official ambassador for public education and the teaching profession. As an accomplished educator in the Birmingham City School System, Mr. White inspires every student in his community to achieve.

Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White is a National Board certified fifth-grade teacher in the Birmingham City School System. He grew up in Choctaw County and attended Alabama State University with the intention of majoring in communications.

While in college he joined the Baptist Student Union. This organization provided him the wonderful opportunity one summer to serve as a missionary in San Jose, California.

He assisted students in learning English and mentored local families on methods to improve student reading skills and comprehension. From this moment, he knew that he wanted to become an educator. When White returned home from California, confirmation about his new career path was further received through a television commercial he saw.

This commercial focused on recruiting new teachers and at the closing of the commercial, the student said, “We need you!” Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White saw himself in this commercial and vowed to one day create a classroom where all students felt valued and inspired to achieve their dreams.

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## STATE ANNOUNCES 2022-2023 STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

"I believe it is important for my students to see me as a real person," said Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White. "I ensure that my students are connected to the world around them. Technology has allowed opportunities to invite guest speakers into our classroom to help deepen my students' understanding of various concepts. If selected the 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year, my message would be, 'Our Children Need a Responsive Classroom.' A responsive classroom is an evidence-based approach to teaching that focuses on engaging academics, positive community, effective management, and developmental awareness."

When asked to describe the positive impact that he is having on student achievement, one southern region education representative said, "Mr. White inspires his students. Upon entering his laboratory of academic engagement, his classroom, one can see that Mr. White is an accomplished teacher. His lessons reflect his knowledge of students, their interest, learning styles, and rigor. He is in tune to their needs and propels them to succeed."



Tonight, Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies teacher *William Edmonds* was also named Alabama's Alternate Teacher of the Year during this special award ceremony.

After graduating from Citronelle High School in 1992, Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds pursued a degree in Global Business at the University of Mobile. Little did he know that his effort to meet his college foreign language requirement would one day lead him to an exciting 24-year career in education as a top teacher.

While at the University of Mobile, he also had the wonderful opportunity to study in both France and Belgium. This experience inspired him to add a French major to his degree. Then in 1998, while working for an international bank he decided to pursue a different career path. He left his office and applied to become a Mobile County school teacher. He has never looked back.

Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds began teaching French at Burns Middle School and then transferred to Davidson High School where he spent the next 20 years teaching. In 2009, he achieved National Board Certification. In 2021, he started an exciting new phase in his career, teaching Grades 6-9 at the reopened Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies.

"I try to bring each student into a community of care and concern," said Alternate State Teacher of the Year William Edmonds. "I work to ensure they are connected to the world around them by designing and delivering instruction, which sparks the natural curiosity of students about the world in which they live, while providing them an overall broader perspective. Project-based learning allows me to actively engage my students in a real world and meaningful manner."

A fellow educator in the Mobile County School System recently said, "Mr. Edmonds is not only a great teacher he is also an excellent colleague as well. When another teacher needs help, he is the first to volunteer. His extra efforts and hard work to build a community of support shows students and parents the importance of lifelong learning."

*STATE ANNOUNCES 2022-2023 STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR*

**Additional Information**

After being selected, the Alabama Teacher of the Year spends a majority of the school year serving as an official spokesperson for education.

The Alabama Teacher of the Year presents professional workshops and information to various groups throughout the state and nation. Additionally, our state Teacher of the Year is also our official candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education said it is exciting to recognize these great educators. "Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White and State Alternate Teacher of the Year William Edmonds exemplify the professionalism of Alabama's educators," said Mackey. "Both of these outstanding teachers embody classroom excellence."

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