



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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STATE ANNOUNCES 2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINAL FOUR

*New Alabama Teacher of the Year (TOY) and Alternate Will Be Officially Announced
Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at the Annual TOY Reception*

Montgomery, Ala. – The list of 16 finalists has been narrowed to four of Alabama’s most outstanding educators. Each of these candidates is described as a true classroom ambassador. The announcement will be made next week during the reception at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, AL, at 6 p.m. This year’s four finalists have been selected from a group of more than 150 highly-skilled educators. The 2022-2023 finalists are:

Elementary



Geri Evans
Hoover City School System
Bluff Park Elementary School
State School Board District III Elementary Teacher of the Year



Reggie White
Birmingham City School System
Booker T. Washington K-8 School
State School Board District IV Elementary Teacher of the Year

Secondary



William Edmonds
Mobile County School System
Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies
State School Board District V Secondary Teacher of the Year



Kristen F. Steele
Madison City School System
James Clemens High School
State School Board District VIII Secondary Teacher of the Year

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Additional Information

The Alabama Teacher of the Year (TOY) Program is one of our state's oldest and most esteemed awards programs. The next step for the final four is an extensive interview with the state judging committee.

The 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year will be announced next week. The Teacher of the Year spends the school year serving as an official spokesperson for the teaching profession. The teacher of the year also represents our state in the National Teacher of the Year Award Recognition Program.

Geri Evans - *Hoover City School System* - Bluff Park Elementary School
(State School Board District III)

Growing up as one of eleven children made education an easy choice for Geri Evans. She has vivid memories of playing school with her sisters. Her fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Schull, helped to ignite a spark in her and appreciation for teaching.

Geri Evans is now a dynamic STEAM teacher at Bluff Park Elementary School. She started her career in 1992 in South Dakota as a sixth-grade teacher. She then became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2008. She was named a 2020 State Science Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science. Her goal as an educator is to share her appreciation for learning with her students so they will become lifelong learners.

For the past two years, she has assisted with national efforts to increase college participation and enrollment.

Reggie White - *Birmingham City School System* - Booker T. Washington K-8 School
(State School Board District IV)

Reggie White is a National Board Certified fifth-grade teacher at Booker T. Washington K-8 School. He grew up in Choctaw County and enrolled in Alabama State University after graduation from high school with the intention of majoring in communications.

He decided to join the university's Baptist Student Union. This organization gave him the opportunity to spend an amazing summer as a missionary in San Jose, California, where he helped children learn English and showed local families best practices to improve student reading and comprehension.

From that moment, he knew he wanted to become an educator. When White returned home from California, confirmation about his new career path was received via a television commercial. The commercial focused on recruiting new teachers and at the closing a student said, "We need you!" Reggie White saw himself in this commercial and vowed to one day create a classroom where all students felt valued and were inspired to reach for their dreams.

William Edmonds - *Mobile County School System* - Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies
(State School Board District V)

After graduating from Citronelle High School in 1992, 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 to a 24-year career teaching French.

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While at the university, he studied in France and then Belgium, and ended up adding a French major to his degree. Then in 1998, while working at an international bank, he felt called to pursue a different career path. On that day, he walked directly from his office to Mobile County's Barton Academy and applied to become a teacher. He has never looked back.

William Edmonds began teaching French at Burns Middle School and transferred to Davidson High School where he spent the next 20 years teaching at all levels of French. He also earned a Master of Education degree from the University of South Alabama. In 2009, he achieved National Board Certification. In 2021, William Edmonds embraced a new challenge, teaching Grades 6-9 at the reopened Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies.

Kristen F. Steele - *Madison City School System* - James Clemens High School
(State School Board District VIII)

Maya Angelou once said, "*When you learn, teach. When you get, give.*" During her more than 11 years in education, Kristen Steele has remained insightful and willing to utilize innovative methods to inspire both her students and colleagues.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in chemistry and a Masters of Secondary Education in Science, from The University of Alabama. Kristen Steele spent her very first semester as a teacher instructing students in project-based learning. Now, for more than four years, she has served as the chemistry content team leader in her school district. She collaborates with an outstanding team of colleagues who strive to expose all K-12 students to chemistry.

Kristen Steele is currently pursuing National Board Certification and is focused on sharing national best practices with fellow Alabama teachers as an A+ College Ready Secondary Consultant. She wants every student to be an active participant in the K-12 learning community and promotes intellectual curiosity, scientific investigation, and academic growth in her classroom.

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