

The cover features a large, stylized outline of the state of Alabama in the background. The top half of the state is filled with a green-to-white gradient, while the bottom half is filled with an orange-to-white gradient. A white apple shape is superimposed on the center of the state outline. Inside the apple, the text "2023-2024" is written in green, "ALABAMA" in black, "TEACHER" in large black letters, "of the YEAR" in black with "of the" in italics, and "Application" in red. A small white leaf is positioned at the top of the apple's stem.

2023-2024

ALABAMA

TEACHER
of the **YEAR**

Application



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is administered by the Communication Office of the Alabama State Department of Education. For more information, contact:

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Alabama State Department of Education · 50 North Ripley Street
5114 Gordon Persons Building · Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3833
Tel: 334-694-4853 · Email: ann.starks@alsde.edu



Greetings from Reggie LeDon White
Birmingham City Schools
2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year

Congratulations on your nomination for Alabama Teacher of the Year! I am a teacher today because of individuals like you. Alabama Teacher of the Year is the highest honor the state of Alabama can bestow upon a teacher. It is evident that your colleagues appreciate your contributions and efforts toward student achievement.

Before you read another word, please stop and say, "I can do this!" There are over 48,000 educators in Alabama, and your colleagues believe you are one of the best. Now, it is time for you to believe in your impact on the lives of our students. This application is worth the time and insight required to complete. It is a tool of reflection regarding how you teach, how your students learn, and how you impact the teaching profession. Just like you expect your students to complete all assignments, it is your turn to have those same high expectations for yourself.

There were times I doubted my ability to reflect and thoughtfully produce an exemplary application. Once I got over that hurdle, I began to think critically about my learning community. After that, I poured my heart and soul into the process. Please do not come this far just to come this far. Your hard work and passion have made this possible. Put your heart and soul into this application. You will be so glad you did.

Let me be very honest! Today, it seems like I am living a dream. Being the 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year has been an honor of a lifetime! There are no words I can write to express the magnitude of my gratitude. There is not enough money in the world to buy what I feel. In fact, I have attained an achievement that money cannot buy. I wish the word "spectacular" could describe it but it does not come close.

This chapter is almost over and now it is your opportunity to take the baton. Believe me when I say YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES! As an educator, you have taken great strides to breathe new life into the students you serve. Now, it is your turn to take a deep breath and show how you enhance student learning.

Best wishes for much success.



PURPOSE

The Alabama Teacher of the Year Program seeks annually to honor and recognize excellence in the teaching profession by identifying outstanding Alabama classroom teachers at local, district, and state levels.

DUTIES

The Alabama Teacher of the Year serves as a full-time ambassador for the teaching profession for one year by speaking to civic and professional organizations, P-12 schools, colleges and universities; conducting workshops for teachers; and writing newspaper and magazine articles.

ELIGIBILITY

The Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is open to any public school certified classroom teacher, librarian, counselor, or other certified individual whose major responsibility is to work with children in a P-12 setting and provide learning opportunities to meet the academic goals and graduation requirements set by the Alabama State Board of Education. Individuals must be selected by the faculty at the participating school and serving in a capacity for which they hold proper certification.

ADMINISTRATION

The program is administered by the Alabama State Department of Education. Travel expenses for the Teacher of the Year and Alternate Teacher of the Year are paid by the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program.

This booklet may also be accessed at www.alabamaachievers.org.



THE SELECTION PROCESS

This application form may be photocopied as needed. For the purpose of this program, an **elementary teacher** is one who works in Grades P through 6 and a **secondary teacher** is one who works in Grades 7 through 12. The **middle school teacher** is considered an elementary teacher or a secondary teacher as determined by the major portion of the school day spent in teaching Grades P through 6 (elementary) or Grades 7 through 12 (secondary). Nominees should be grouped accordingly and must be full time.

School Level

A Teacher of the Year selection committee should be appointed at the school level to solicit nominees and select the school's Teacher(s) of the Year (elementary and/or secondary).

The school-level Teacher of the Year selection committee should be composed of:

- ☑ Principal
- ☑ Parent organization representative
- ☑ Teacher
- ☑ Student representative
- ☑ School counselor or school librarian (if no counselor or librarian serves the school, a second classroom teacher should be selected by the committee).

The school-level Teacher of the Year selection committee, under the guidance of the principal, should make information about the program available to all faculty, parent organizations, and students. After making its selection, the application(s) should be forwarded to the school system superintendent for participation in the school system-level selection.

School System Level

The school system-level Teacher of the Year selection committee should be appointed to receive the nominations from each school and to select from those nominations a school system elementary Teacher of the Year and/or a school system secondary Teacher of the Year.

The committee should be composed of:

- ☑ Superintendent
- ☑ School board member
- ☑ Parent organization representative
- ☑ Elementary teacher
- ☑ Secondary teacher

Once the school system-level selection committee has chosen its Teacher of the Year honorees, the applications should be forwarded to the Alabama State Department of Education.

District Level

The applications of the honorees from each local school system will be reviewed by a district-level Teacher of the Year selection committee in each of the eight Alabama State Board of Education districts. Each committee will select a district elementary Teacher of the Year and a district secondary Teacher of the Year for a total of 16 district honorees.

Each district-level committee should be composed of:

- ☛ District representative on the Alabama State Board of Education
- ☛ Local superintendent
- ☛ Local board of education member
- ☛ Two business representatives
- ☛ Current District Elementary Teacher of the Year
- ☛ Current District Secondary Teacher of the Year
- ☛ Dean of education from a college or university

Each committee will evaluate applications from a district other than its own.
A map showing the districts is on page vii.

State Level

The state-level Teacher of the Year selection committee will be composed of the outgoing Alabama Teacher of the Year or Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year and representatives of the following:

- ☛ Alabama State Board of Education
- ☛ State Superintendent of Education
- ☛ Alabama Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
- ☛ Alabama Association of School Boards
- ☛ Alabama Conference of Educators
- ☛ Alabama Congress of Parents and Teachers
- ☛ Alabama Education Association
- ☛ A-Plus Education Partnership
- ☛ Alabama Milken Educators' Network
- ☛ Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools
- ☛ School Superintendents of Alabama
- ☛ Media and Business Community
- ☛ Higher Education



TIMELINE FOR SELECTION

September 2022	Online Application opens
Upon Request	Applications mailed to local school systems and schools
December 2022 – January 2023 (Dates set by local school systems)	Applications selected by local school systems
January 26, 2023	Final Alabama Teacher of the Year applications for local school system's nominees should be mailed or hand-delivered to: Ann Starks Alabama Teacher of the Year Program Alabama State Department of Education 5114 Gordon Persons Building 50 North Ripley Street Montgomery, AL 36104-3833 Email: ann.starks@alsde.edu
February - April 2023	Alabama State Board of Education District-Level Selection Committees will select district Teachers of the Year. The state-level selection committee will select the Alabama Teacher of the Year and an Alternate Teacher of the Year.
May 2023	Awards Ceremony
November 2023	The application of the Alabama Teacher of the Year will be forwarded for entry in the National Teacher of the Year Program.

HONORS AND AWARDS

SCHOOL AND SCHOOL SYSTEM LEVEL: Local school officials are encouraged to honor and recognize their respective Teachers of the Year as they deem appropriate. STATE LEVEL: The Alabama State Board of Education District Teachers of the Year, the Alabama Teacher of the Year, and the Alternate Teacher of the Year will be honored at a special awards reception in Montgomery and will be recognized at a meeting of the Alabama State Board of Education. Announcement of the honors will be disseminated to news media statewide. Awards are subject to change without notice.

2021-2022 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

CORPORATE SPONSORS

ALFA Farmers Federation and ALFA
Insurance Companies
Alabama Education Association
Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation
Alabama State University
Data Recognition Corporation
Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, Inc.
Interior Elements
McKee & Associates
Montgomery Electronics and
Communications Services, LLC*

PROGRAM SPONSORS

A+ Education Partnership
Alabama Congress of Parents and Teachers
Alabama Association of School Boards
Charlie's Trophies and Plaques
Baptist Health
Capitol's Rosemont Gardens
Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools
Embassy Suites
Jean's Florist*
Mike Shelton, State Farm Insurance*
Montgomery Biscuits
Troy Bank and Trust*
School Superintendents of Alabama
Troy University
The College of Education, The University
of Alabama
SMART Technologies

*new sponsor

♦ **Alabama Association of School Boards** – Gift Cards for District Teachers of the Year

♦ **Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama State Department of Education**

Grant Awards to be used for Classroom and/or Instructional Improvement:

Alabama Teacher of the Year\$2,500
Alabama Teacher of the Year's School\$300
Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year\$1,500
Alternate's School\$300
Two Finalists.....\$750 Each
District Teachers of the Year\$500 Each

♦ **ALFA Farmers Federation and ALFA Insurance Companies** – Use of Traverse LS
for one year for Alabama Teacher of the Year

♦ **Baptist Health** – Trophy for Alabama Teacher of the Year and Alternate Teacher
of the Year

♦ **Charlie's Trophies and Plaques** – Gift for Alabama Teacher of the Year

♦ **Council For Leaders in Alabama Schools** – A Plaque for Each District Teacher of
the Year and Program Support

♦ **Embassy Suites** – Overnight stay for the Alabama Teacher of the Year and
Alternate Teacher of the Year

♦ **Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, Inc.** – Portfolios for Alabama Teacher of the
Year Nominees

♦ **Interior Elements** – Classroom Makeover

♦ **Montgomery Biscuits** – Tickets for the Alabama Teacher of the Year and District
Teachers of the Year

♦ **Mike Shelton, State Farm Insurance** – Grant Award

♦ **Smart Technologies** – Technology Package

♦ **Troy Bank and Trust** – Grant Award

♦ **Troy University** – Reception Sponsor

A map of Alabama showing its 67 counties and their major cities. The state is divided into eight numbered regions (1-8) outlined in red. The counties and their major cities are as follows:

- Region 1:** COVINGTON (Andalusia City), ESCAMBIA (Breckenridge City), CONECUH (Conehatta City).
- Region 2:** RANDOLPH (Rensselaire City), CLAY (Clayton City), TALLAPOOSA (Tallapoosa City), CHAMBERS (Lawley City).
- Region 3:** SHELBY (Hobbs City), TUSCALOOSA (Tuscaloosa City), CHILTON (Chilton City).
- Region 4:** GREENE (Greene City), HALE (Hale City), SUMTER (University Center).
- Region 5:** WASHINGTON (Washington City), CLARKE (Huntsville City), MONROE (Monroe City), WILCOX (Wilcox City).
- Region 6:** ETOWAH (Attalla City), CULMAN (Culman City), BLOUNT (Greenville City), ST. CLAIR (Pell City), TALLADEGA (Talladega City), COOSA (Coosa City).
- Region 7:** LAWRENCE (Lawrence City), WINSTON (Haleyville City), WALKER (Seale City), LAMAR (Lamar City), FAYETTE (Fayette City).
- Region 8:** DEKALB (Pittsford City), MARSHALL (Marshall City), MADISON (Huntsville City), JACKSON (Scottsboro City), LESTER (Lester City).

Other counties shown include: LAUDERDALE (Flomona City), COLBERT (Muscle Shoals City), FRANKLIN (Russellville City), MORGAN (Hartselle City), MARSHALL (Athens City), CHEROKEE (Cherokee City), CALHOUN (Anniston City), CLEBURNE (Elberton City), PICKENS (Pickens City), TALLADEGA (Talladega City), CLAY (Clayton City), TALLAPOOSA (Tallapoosa City), CHAMBERS (Lawley City), LEE (Auburn City), RUSSELL (Phenix City), MAON (Macon City), BUTLER (Butler City), PIKE (Troy City), CRENSHAW (Crenshaw City), COFFEE (Coffee City), DALE (Dale City), HENRY (Henry City), HOUSTON (Houston City), GENEVA (Geneva City), MOBILE (Mobile City).

State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.



Instructions for Submitting Applications to the Alabama State Department of Education

The application form for the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program incorporates portions of the National Teacher of the Year Program application form. Materials submitted must follow the instructions below and within the application form.

1. Each completed application, when submitted to the Alabama State Department of Education, should contain the following:
 - (1) "Criteria for Selection" sheet (score sheet) with the first three items completed (level, district, and name).
 - (2) Completed application form, including letters of support.
2. Nominees for Alabama Teacher of the Year must be nominated on the application form contained in or retyped totally from this booklet. The form may be photocopied. If the application is typed on pages other than the application form itself, the exact spacing and wording of each item of the application form must be used, including the wording regarding the number of pages for each item. Answers should not exceed the number of pages designated. Type size should be no smaller than 10 point. Submit only the completed application, not the booklet pages of explanation. Applications should be neat and legible. Do not staple.
3. Provide all information requested in the application form and follow directions.
4. Carefully check applications for neatness and legibility and typographical, grammatical, and spelling errors. Judges really take note of such errors!
5. The nominee, the school principal, and the superintendent must sign in the appropriate spaces on pages 1 and 2. The state coordinator of the program will sign each application after it is submitted.
6. No materials will be returned to nominees.
7. Deadline: All school system nominees' applications must be submitted to the Alabama State Department of Education by January 26, 2023. Applications must be hand-delivered or postmarked by that date. Late applications will not be considered.



Documents Needed to Complete the Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

I. General Information/Application Form

II. Résumé

Categories are as follows:

- Education
- Certifications
- Experience
- Leadership
- Awards and Other Recognition

III. Professional Biography

Please complete your professional biography in third person, as this will be used in promotional materials for Alabama Teacher of the Year speaking opportunities and engagements.

IV. Response Questions

- Describe a lesson that describes you as a teacher.
- Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in.
- How do you ensure that your students are connected to the world around them?
- What do you consider to be a major public education issue today?
- What would your message be as the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year?

V. Letters of Support

Attach three recommendations that support why you should be the 2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year. At least one of these must be a recommendation from a parent, colleague, administrator, or student and each letter should not exceed two pages in length.

Criteria for Judging the Alabama Teacher of the Year Candidates 2023-2024

Level: (circle one) Elementary Secondary

State Board of Education District _____

Teacher's Name _____

For Judges' Use

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Scoring</u>
Resumé <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Certifications • Experience • Leadership • Awards and Recognitions 	_____
Professional Biography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a story • Clearly delineates reason(s) for becoming a teacher 	_____
Response Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear description of teaching philosophy and includes evidence of outstanding teaching qualities • Clearly indicates how beliefs are demonstrated in teaching style 	_____
Education Issues and Trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and describes one issue • Has a story to tell 	_____
Alabama Teacher of the Year Message (Response Questions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message is presented in a coherent and convincing manner • Addresses relevant issues for the teaching profession 	_____
Letters of Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good balance of letters (e.g., parent/student, administrator, colleague) • Clearly explains and gives examples of exceptionality 	_____
Total Points	_____

Criteria Measurements

Exemplary (4)	Goes above and beyond; is at the highest level. <i>For example, in Education Issues and Trends: Uses research with multiple sources, has well-reasoned solution, issue is timely and significant.</i>
Very Good (3)	Outstanding. <i>For example, in Professional Biography: Tells a compelling, personal, and "catchy" story.</i>
Average (2)	Sufficient. <i>For example, in Education History: Attended conferences, but didn't play a leadership role in presenting; has minimal education requirements, but has not pursued advanced courses and degree in past 5-10 years.</i>
Does Not Meet Standard (1)	No evidence or incorrect information provided.

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Part I: Basic Information

The information on this page will not be shared with the Selection Committee. It is used for program contact information and the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program database.

Full Name:

Personal Address:

Personal Telephone Number:

Personal Email:

School District:

District Superintendent:

District Superintendent Email:

School Name:

School Principal Name:

School Principal Email:

School Address:

School Telephone Number:

School Email:

Subject Area:

Grade Level:

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Part I (continued): Demographic Information

The following information is not required and will have no bearing on your selection. It is collected for informational purposes only and will not be shared with Selection Committee Members. Coordinators will select check boxes of items that apply and will be able to write any options that are not included.

School Size:

District Size:

Years of Teaching:

Years in Position:

Twitter Handle:

Facebook Profile:

Instagram Profile:

Personal Blog Site:

Personal Website:

Other Social Media:

Do you speak a language other than English fluently?

Professional Association Memberships *(write in all that apply)*

☐ NEA

☐ AFT

☐ Other:

I am a National Board Certified Teacher.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ In Progress

School Demographics *(select all that apply)*

☐ Public

☐ Rural

☐ Charter

☐ Urban

☐ Suburban

☐ Other:

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Part II: Résumé

Please keep your résumé as simple as possible. We recommend that you enter each item as a separate line of text. Categories are as follows:

Education

Certifications

Experience

Leadership

Awards and Other Recognition

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Part III: Professional Biography

Please complete your professional biography in third person, as this will be used in promotional materials for Alabama Teacher of the Year speaking opportunities and engagements. (maximum 250 words)

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Part IV: Response Questions

Respond to the following questions, highlighting your personal story and why you believe you should be the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year. Maximum word counts are indicated in parenthesis.

1. Describe a lesson that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage all students in the learning and how did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson? *(maximum 500 words)*

2. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in as an educator.
What was your role, and how did this contribute to the overall school culture?
(*maximum 500 words*)

3. How do you ensure that your students are connected to the world around them? Describe the ways in which you do this. (*maximum 500 words*)

4. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Describe why this is important to you, and how you are addressing this from your classroom.
(*maximum 500 words*)

5. As the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year, you serve as a spokesperson and representative for teachers and students. What is your message? What will you communicate to your profession and to the general public? Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your ability to be an effective teacher? If so, what adjustments have you made? If not, what prepared you to continue to be effective in spite of the pandemic? (*maximum 500 words*)

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Part V: Supporting Evidence

Attach three recommendations that support why you should be the 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year. At least one of these must be a recommendation from a parent, colleague, administrator, or student and each letter should not exceed one page in length.

2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year Application

Guidelines, Timeline, and Application

Acknowledgements

In submitting this form, I agree to the details being used for the purposes of the selection process for the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year. The information will only be accessed by necessary Alabama State Department of Education staff and selection committee members. I understand my data will be held securely and will not be distributed to third parties. Additionally, information about State Teachers of the Year will not be released until after the state has made an official announcement identifying the candidate as the state's teacher of the year.

CANDIDATE

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address, telephone, SS# and DOB) may be shared with persons interested in promoting the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program. I also acknowledge that if selected as the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year, I will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of my recognition in order to fulfill the obligations of the role.

Name of Candidate: _____

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

SCHOOL/BUILDING PRINCIPAL

I acknowledge that the candidate submits this application with my approval. If the candidate is selected as the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year, he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

Name of School Principal: _____

Signature of School Principal: _____ Date: _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

I acknowledge that the candidate submits this application with my approval. If the candidate is selected as the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year, he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

Name of District Superintendent: _____

Signature of District Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

Name of State Coordinator: _____

Signature of State Coordinator: _____ Date: _____