



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

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Governor Kay Ivey
President

**ALABAMA’S 16 FINALISTS FOR
TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED TODAY**

“State’s Sweet 16 Educators Being Recognized for Teaching Excellence”

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – Sixteen outstanding educators who personify excellence have been selected as finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Tracie West
District II
President Pro Tem

Each excels in the classroom and inspires students through innovative instructional techniques.

This year’s 16 state finalists have emerged from a highly professional group of more than 150 top educators who submitted their official applications for this state honor.

Stephanie Bell
District III

The Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is one of our state’s oldest and most esteemed recognition programs.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Alabama State Department of Education - 2023-2024 District Teachers of the Year

Maegan Gayle

Mobile County School System – Hutchens Elementary School
District I Elementary Teacher of the Year

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Amanda Talantis

Gulf Shores City School System – Gulf Shores High School
District I Secondary Teacher of the Year

Marie Manning
District VI

Logan Faith Rasmusson

Phenix City School System – Sherwood Elementary School
District II Elementary Teacher of the Year

Belinda McRae
District VII

Ansley A. Godwin

Ozark City School System – Carroll High School
District II Secondary Teacher of the Year

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
Vice President

Jeffrey L. Norris

Shelby County School System – Oak Mountain Middle School
District III Elementary Teacher of the Year

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

Kevin Pughsley

Hoover City School System – Berry Middle School
District III Secondary Teacher of the Year

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ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR 16 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED TODAY

Dr. Allatesha Cain

Bessemer City Schools – Charles F. Hard Elementary School
District IV Elementary Teacher of the Year

Mychoal B. Woods

Birmingham City Schools – George Washington Carver High School
District IV Secondary Teacher of the Year

George Clausell, II

Macon County Schools – George Washington Carver Elementary School
District V Elementary Teacher of the Year

Jessica Roberson

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

Lauren Murdoch Brascho

Pell City Schools – Coosa Valley Elementary School
District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year

Katie McGee

Cullman City Schools – Cullman Middle School
District VI Secondary Teacher of the Year

Kimberly Jared

Hartselle City Schools – Barkley Bridge Elementary School
District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Coleman

Trussville City Schools – Hewitt-Trussville High School
District VII Secondary Teacher of the Year

Bonnie Howard

Madison City Schools – Madison Elementary School
District VIII Elementary Teacher of the Year

Nia Nicole Stivers

Jackson County Schools – North Jackson High School
District VIII Secondary Teacher of the Year

Alabama's Teacher of the Year serves as a full-time ambassador for education and the teaching profession, in addition to presenting workshops to various groups. Alabama's representative is also a candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

This pool of outstanding educators will soon be narrowed down to the final Top Four. The 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year will be announced by the Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama State Department of Education in May.

Reflecting on his experiences as the 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year Reggie White said, "One of the greatest achievements in my life is the honor of not only entering the teaching profession but also meeting students who would have an indelible impact on my life. It has truly been an honor to serve as our state's 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year and inspiring others to see that nothing is impossible with great teachers! I celebrate the 16 finalists for accepting the call to teach and for modeling exceptional performance in the classroom. You are all Teachers of the Year."