



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Governor

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CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

November 14, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Principals

FROM: Christopher D. Cerf *epc*
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: 2012-13 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year Program

The New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts and charter schools to participate in the 2012-13 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year Program. The program selection process begins with choosing a Teacher of the Year at the school and district levels and then continues to the county, state and national levels. Districts participating in the Teacher of the Year program over the years have found the program to be beneficial in establishing a school culture that recognizes excellence and creates a sense of pride within the school community by celebrating its teachers. This program is not to be confused with the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program.

We are seeking teacher leaders (pre-K-grade 12) with knowledge of the most current education topics and teaching and learning strategies who are skilled practitioners and who have impacted student achievement and professional learning at the school or district level. Most important, we are seeking practitioners who consistently demonstrate the ability to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities and have strong long-range potential for leadership opportunities beyond the district level.

Attached is the Program Application Packet for the 2012-13 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year program. **Please be attentive to the procedures, criteria, and application materials for county, district, and school level applications and review this information carefully prior to beginning the application process.**

Please keep in mind that each District Teacher of the Year must complete the Application Form to compete for County Teacher of the Year. Since preparing this application requires a significant amount of time, I encourage you to identify and notify your district's Teacher of the Year as soon as possible in order to have ample time to complete the application.

www.nj.gov/education

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The original Application Form and six copies together with the District Information Form must be submitted to your County Office of Education to meet the **4 p.m. February 17, 2012 deadline**. Incomplete applications or applications that do not adhere to program guidelines will not be submitted into competition at the county level.

Your assistance is important to ensure the continued success of this program. Please disseminate this information in a timely manner. Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact your County Office of Education.

Thank you for your continued support.

AS/PM/MJK//NB/S:\TEACHER OF THE YEAR\2012-13\APPLICATION MEMO.DOC

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
Senior Staff
Penny MacCormack
Beth Auerswald
Carly Bolger
Mary Jane Kurabinski
Marie Barry
Nancy Besant
Executive County Superintendents
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group