2020

Vermont Teacher of the Year Application



Application due date: July 31, 2019

For additional information contact:

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Background

The classroom teacher is the backbone of the American education system. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the primary learning and instructional environment. It is the mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program to honor our nation’s greatest teachers while providing rigorous professional learning for teachers to be leaders and advocates.

The National Teacher of the Year Program has been run by the Council of Chief State School Officers since 1952. The Teacher of the Year Award Program was initiated in 1952 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to bring recognition to the importance of teachers as nurturers of the "American Dream." His intention to honor all teachers by the selection of a representative teacher from each state would find completion in the yearly choice of a National Teacher of the Year. Through an organized and varied selection process involving classroom teachers, school administrators, state officials, students, parents, and business representatives, each state nominates its own Teacher of the Year.

Eligibility

Any exceptionally skilled and dedicated teacher who:

* is appropriately credentialed (holds a current, non-conditional, Level I or Level II Vermont teaching license), with an endorsement(s) in the assignment teaching;
* who teaches in a Vermont public or approved independent school;
* has a minimum of five years of teaching experience.
* Individuals holding temporary licenses are not eligible to participate.
* The program is open to all teachers, including support staff (i.e., school counselor, school librarians, technology specialists, school nurses etc.).

The Vermont Teacher of the Year candidate has the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

* Plans to continue in an active teaching status;
* Is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence;
* Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success;
* Deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large;
* Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning; and
* Expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way.

Process

An application including letters of support is submitted by each candidate. Support from the school community will include several days of release time to fulfill the obligations of the 2020 Vermont Teacher of the Year.

National Teacher of the Year

The Vermont Teacher of the Year becomes Vermont’s entrant in the [National Teacher of the Year](http://www.ccsso.org/ntoy/About_the_Program.html) program.

**INSTRUCTIONS** for completing the 2020 Vermont Teacher of the Year Application form:

Please provide **all** information requested in the application form.

* Please limit your answers to the number of words requested in each section***.***
* Each application must include **one photograph**, suitable for publicity purposes (5" x 7" color, head shot preferred). Please email your photograph as a .jpg attachment to [Rebecca.Gile@vermont.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Gile@vermont.gov) along with your application.
* **The application** may be completed electronically; please adhere to the format established in the application. **Number the sections and the pages.**
* Please include three letters of recommendations that support why you should be the 2020 Vermont, and National Teacher of the Year. The letters of support are your time to shine, to demonstrate leadership through active roles in the school and community; and your ability to inspire learning in students of all backgrounds and competencies.
* The emailed/scanned application package must be sent no later than the close of business (4:30 pm) on **Wednesday, July 31, 2019** to: [Rebecca.Gile@vermont.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Gile@vermont.gov).

**Stage 1: Application Process**

The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is capable of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. To be eligible for consideration for the Vermont Teacher of the Year and the CCSSO National Teacher of the Year programs the educator must plan to continue teaching in an active status.

Educators submit their application for consideration by July 31, 2019. The application used for the Vermont program, is the same as the National Teacher of the Year program to limit redundancy for the finalist.

**Stage 2: Application Review & Interview**

A panel of VT Teachers of the Year, educators and partners:

* assess the application – provide a number # rating
* interview top 5 candidates with exemplary scores - rated
* recommend 3 candidates to the Vermont Agency of Education

**Stage 3: Finalist Speech to State Board of Education**

Top three finalists share with the Board a 5 minute speech highlighting who you are, where and what you teach, your teaching philosophy and your message if you were selected as the 2020 VT-TOY. Board members provide a rating for each candidate. You may learn more about the State Board of Education [on our website](http://education.vermont.gov/state-board).

**Stage 4: Final Selection by Agency officials (September 2020)**

Agency of Education interview with finalist’s Superintendents

Notification of determination to finalists

Press Release distributed

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Last Name: | First Name: | Personal Email: | |
| Personal address: | | Personal phone no.: | |
| City, State, Zip: | | School email: | |
| School District, school name, address and school phone no.: | | | |
| Subject area: | Grade Level(s): | Years of teaching experience:  Years in current position: | |
| Principal name and email: | | School size:  District size: | |
| Superintendent name and email: | | School Location*:*   * *Suburban* * *Rural* * *Urban* * *Other* | School Type*:*   * *Traditional Public* * *Charter Public* * *Private* * *Other* |
| Social media/website profile names: | |
| Do you speak a language other than English fluently? | |
| Professional memberships: Check all that apply.   * NEA (including state and local affiliates) * AFT (including state and local affiliates) * ASCD * National Council of Teachers of English * National Council of Teachers of Mathematics * National Science Teachers Association * National Association for Music Education * Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | I am a National Board Certified Teacher:   * Yes * No * In progress | |
| Ethnicity (optional)   * White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.) * Black/African American (A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.) * Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.) * Asian/Indian Subcontinent (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.) * Native American/Alaskan Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America [including Central America], and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.) * Decline to Answer | | | |

**Publicity Photograph**

Include with the application package a photograph of the candidate, either hard copy or sent in electronic file form, suitable for publicity purposes. A 5” x 7” head shot in color,portrait orientation, 300 ppi, .jpg format is preferred.

**Resume**

In this section please include the following items:

* Education: school name, degree, major, years attended
* Certifications: year obtained
* Work Experience: years in position
* Leadership Experience: years in position
* Awards and Other Recognition: year received

\*\*Please attach current resume\*\* Please limit resume length to no more than two pages.

**Professional Biography**

Please complete your professional biography in 3rd person, as this will be used on [your page on the CCSSO website](https://ccsso.org/national-teacher-of-the-year). By completing this section, you agree that your biography and headshot can be used in CCSSO materials. Please follow the content and style guidelines below. *(Maximum 250 words)*

In your bio, please include the following items:

* The grade level and subject you currently teach
* The school in which you currently teach, including city and state
* All degrees you hold include the institution where they were received (i.e., Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Connecticut)

In your bio, please follow the following style guidelines:

* Spell out your degrees (i.e., Bachelor of Art not BA)
* Only capitalize a subject area when it's a language (i.e., capitalize English but not calculus)
* Use your first and last name in the first reference, but your last name only on second and subsequent references
* Spell out all acronyms the first time they are used

**Response Questions - Respond to the following questions, highlighting your personal story and why you believe you should be the 2020 Vermont and National Teacher of the Year. Please indicate evidence of student impact. Please do not include external links. Maximum word counts are indicated in parenthesis.**

1. Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning? How did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit? *(maximum 750 words)*

1. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, how did you collaborate with others, and what is the status of this project today? Please include evidence of student impact.  *(maximum 500 words)*
2. How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom? Describe specific ways in which you deliberately connect your students with the community. Please include evidence of student impact. *(maximum 500 words)*
3. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Describe how you demonstrate being a lifelong learner, leader, and innovator about this issue, both in and outside of the classroom walls. *(maximum 500 words)*

1. As the 2020 National 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 public? *(maximum 750 words)*

**Supporting Evidence**

Attach 3 recommendations that support why you should be the 2020 National 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.