



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Superintendents of Unified School Districts
Directors of Public Charter Schools
Executive Directors, Regional Educational Service Centers
Heads of Schools, Endowed and Incorporated Academies

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

DATE: May 5, 2025

SUBJECT: 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program

Teachers across Connecticut dedicate themselves every day to making a difference in the lives of our students and families. In recognition of this ongoing commitment, we are excited to announce the 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program is now accepting applications. This program is sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in partnership with the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, and honors exemplary teachers throughout the state. The program is held annually to recognize the teacher who best represents all of the dedicated educators throughout the state at the national level.

Nominees selected by their districts should register and provide biographical and professional information in the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program portal at <https://toy.eastconn.org>. The deadline for submission is Friday, August 1, 2025, by 11:59 p.m.

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Application Process

Connecticut's Teacher of the Year Program has a long-standing tradition dating back to 1952. It commences with each school district nominating their own District Teacher of the Year using their established selection process. We are excited to continue this legacy of honor and recognition by inviting your district to participate in this important process for the 2026 cycle. The nominated District Teacher of the Year candidates must register through the electronic application portal to be considered for the 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year and to be included in the annual recognition ceremony for teachers and their respective superintendents to be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at The Bushnell in Hartford, Connecticut. A link to the online application is located on the CSDE website at [Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program](#).

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Webinar

The CSDE and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council will hold an informational webinar on May 14, 2025, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. to provide more information on the selection process. Districts who are new to the program or who may have questions about the program are strongly encouraged to participate in the webinar using the following link:

P.O. Box 2219 ● Hartford, Connecticut 06145
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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82525847899?pwd=JCt9QhtgmOiuyD70Va9OlbabnzSiLX.1>

Meeting ID: 825 2584 7899

Passcode: 058936

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Criteria

To be considered for selection as the Connecticut Teacher of the Year, an educator must work directly with students at least 50 percent of the time and must currently work under a Connecticut certificate with a teaching endorsement or a vocational teaching endorsement. Please follow the link for eligible endorsement codes. [Endorsement Codes \(ct.gov\)](#)

Local school districts may select candidates that do not meet these requirements, but those candidates will not be considered for the statewide honor. A District Teacher of the Year may also opt out from consideration for the statewide honor.

It is important to remember that the local school district process must be viewed as fair and inclusive by teachers, administrators, and the public. Participating districts find that the Connecticut Teacher of the Year program has a positive impact and is a source of pride for the local community to recognize a teacher who exemplifies the good work of educators in the district.

The selected Connecticut Teacher of the Year also represents the state for consideration as the National Teacher of the Year and participates throughout the year in state and national education policy discussions, forums, and conferences.

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council is a non-profit organization that works with the Connecticut State Department of Education on many of the responsibilities administering the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program. The Council conducts the rigorous selection process of reviewing all applications, conducting school site visits, and selecting semifinalists, finalists, and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year. The Council also coordinates annual educational forums and networking sessions for the selected cohort.

For questions or assistance with the local district selection process, please contact Council President David Bosso at davidbosso@gmail.com.

If you have additional questions, please contact Mary Glassman, Connecticut Teacher of the Year Coordinator at mary.a.glassman@ct.gov

We look forward to receiving your nominees for the 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

cc: Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner of Educational Supports & Wellness
Dr. Shuana K. Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Mary Glassman, Coordinator, CT Teacher of the Year Program

2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program Timeline

May 1, 2025	Online application portal opens for district Teachers of the Year to submit required information/application portfolio.
May 14, 2025 2:30-3:30PM	Connecticut Teacher of the Year Selection Information Webinar for district superintendents/coordinators https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82525847899?pwd=JCt9QhtgmOiuyD70Va9OlbabnzSiLX.1 Meeting ID: 825 2584 7899 Passcode: 058936
Spring/Summer 2025	District Teachers of the Year prepare their online application and/or register for inclusion in the recognition ceremony.
Friday, August 1, 2025	Application submitted via online portal by 11:59 p.m.
August 4–August 21, 2025	Selection Committee reviews all completed and submitted application portfolios.
Late August/early September, 2025	All Semifinalists are notified. Semifinalist interviews are scheduled.
September 18–19, 2025	Semifinalist interviews held at the Legislative Office Building.
Week of September 22, 2025	All semifinalists are notified if selected as a Finalist. Finalists are provided with school visit dates and procedures.
September 29 and 30, 2025	Site visits take place at Finalists' schools.
October TBD, 2025	Commissioner announces the 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year during a press conference at the teacher's school.
Late October, 2025	National Teacher of the Year application due to CCSSO National Teacher of the Year Office, Washington, D.C.
December 2, 2025	Recognition event at The Bushnell in Hartford, CT to honor each district Teacher of the Year, Semifinalists, Finalists, and the 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.