



## 2023 GEORGIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Local system superintendents may nominate a representative to participate in the selection process for the 2023 Georgia Teacher of the Year (TOTY). The candidate should be a certified teacher (with a clear and renewable certificate) who: (1) is the current local education system (LEA) teacher of the year; (2) is an exceptional, dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teacher *planning to continue in active teaching status*; (3) inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn; (4) has the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues; (5) plays an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school; and (6) is poised and articulate and possesses the energy to withstand a taxing schedule (7) must have at least three years of full-time teaching experience; (8) qualified ROTC teachers are allowed to participate.

The questions asked in the Georgia TOTY Application parallel the questions for the National TOTY program. It is suggested that participating systems use the same Narrative Response questions contained in the Georgia application when conducting the selection process within their systems. A panel of respected educators from across the state assesses the applications to narrow the field to ten finalists. Interviews and video evaluations with the finalists are conducted by a panel of judges. The selection process culminates with a luncheon to honor the finalists. Following the luncheon, the judges decide who will be the 2023 Georgia TOTY. The results remain confidential until announced at the TOTY event.

The 2023 Georgia TOTY will serve as an ambassador for Georgia public education traveling to speaking engagements, attending conferences, giving workshops, and working with the Georgia Department of Education, thus requiring considerable time away from home. This is a full-time position. The commitment spans the full fiscal year from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The Georgia TOTY will enter the 2023 National TOTY competition and if selected, will commit to all the responsibilities that come with that honor including an additional year as an ambassador for public education across the nation.

1. Certified public classroom teachers (with a clear and renewable certificate) in prekindergarten through Grade 12 may be nominated, including special education, physical education, art, music, ROTC and media specialists. Counselors are not eligible for the state or national TOTY. Applicants should spend most of their time teaching students in a classroom setting. (Supervisory and administrative responsibilities should be of secondary consideration.) Applicants should be full-time teachers with at least three years of experience.
2. The system superintendent is responsible for selecting the local system Teacher of the Year but may appoint a person to oversee this project and an outside committee to interview, observe, and select the system's representative. The State School Superintendent is responsible for selecting the Georgia Teacher of the Year and has appointed the Excellence Recognition Unit to oversee this project and to select the state's representative. The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate against any person or group in the selection of candidates for the program on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or educational affiliation.
3. Although judges carefully consider all items in the application, the ability and desire to be an articulate spokesperson for Georgia public education are the most important qualifications.
4. The ten finalists will be announced in the spring of 2022.

# 2023 TOTY SIGNATURE FORM

I understand that if selected as the 2023 Georgia TOTY, the teacher nominated from my school and school district will need to be released from all responsibilities to perform speaking and public appearance duties in his or her role as ambassador for Georgia public education. **Due to budget cuts, the DOE is no longer able to provide funds for a year's sabbatical.** If this applicant is selected as Georgia Teacher of the Year, the district will pay the salaries of the teacher and a replacement for one year.

---

**Superintendent's Signature**

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Miss\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_

---

**Superintendent's Name** (Please Print)

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Miss\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_

---

**Principal's Signature**

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Miss\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_

---

**Principal's Name** (Please Print)

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Miss\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_

---

**District TOTY Coordinator's Signature**

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Miss\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_

---

**District TOTY Coordinator's Name** (Please Print)

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Miss\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_

I understand that if selected as the 2023 Georgia Teacher of the Year, the commitment spans the full calendar year from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023. In this position I will spend considerable time away from school and family while traveling to speaking engagements, attending meetings and conferences, and giving workshops as an ambassador for Georgia public education. As the Georgia TOTY I will enter the National TOTY competition and if selected will commit to all of the responsibilities that come with that honor. I hereby give my permission that any or all the attached materials may be shared with persons interested in promoting the Georgia Teacher of the Year Program.

**Signature of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.

The following individuals have been designated as the employees responsible for coordinating the department's effort to implement this nondiscriminatory policy.

Perkins Act—Audrey Bergeron, Vocational Equity Coordinator (404) 657-8317  
Title VI—Legal Services (404) 656-4689  
Title IX—Legal Services (404) 656-4689

Section 504 and ADA—Legal Services (404) 656-4689

Inquiries concerning the application of the Perkins Act, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 and ADA to the policies and practices of the department may be addressed to the Georgia Department of Education,

Twin Towers East, Atlanta 30334, (404) 656-2800; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta 30323; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20211.