

The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award

Quality education is essential to the wellbeing of our society, and good teachers are the foundation of our educational system.

The Washington Post established the Teacher of the Year Award to recognize teachers who exemplify excellence in their profession.

The goals of The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award have always been to recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION AND FINALIST SUBMISSION PROCESS?

Teachers must first be nominated and one finalist will be selected by their local school system. Nomination deadlines are set by the individual school system. Specific information can be obtained from the school system's awards coordinator or superintendent's office.

All school system finalists are under embargo until mid-April 2021.

Public Schools: Each participating public school system will receive and screen nominations and will select one finalist from each eligible jurisdiction, in accordance with the criteria and nomination process. For further information, contact your local school superintendent's office.

District of Columbia Public Charter Schools: The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board will receive and screen nominations and select one finalist, in accordance with the criteria and nomination process. For further information, contact the Public Charter School Board at 202.328.2660.

Nominations should be sent to:

District of Columbia
Public Charter School Board
3333 14th Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20010

Private Schools: In accordance with the criteria and nomination process, an independent committee of educators and community leaders will screen nominations and make the final selection of a finalist from the private schools. Private school nominations must be uploaded in a Dropbox and sent to Community@washpost.com. Deadline for receipt of private school nominations is 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday, January 25, 2021.

2021 ELIGIBILITY

Nominees must be full-time teachers (in grades prekindergarten through 12) in an accredited school in one of the jurisdictions below. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years' teaching experience, three of which must be in the school or school system in which he or she is currently serving. Nominees must be serving as a teacher for the 2020-21 school year.

District of Columbia

Maryland:

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties.

Virginia:

Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford counties; Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park cities.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

Nominees must be teachers who:

- Instill in students a desire to learn and achieve.
- Understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and foster their self-esteem.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students.
- Foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community.
- Demonstrate outstanding leadership.
- Maintain their teaching position throughout the 2020-21 school year.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be submitted by teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators or the general public. Teachers may not nominate themselves.

The following, excluding the color photograph, must be submitted as one PDF:

- A description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria ranging up to 400 words in each category.
- A maximum of five statements of support, one of which must be by a professional educator.
- A résumé.
- A 200-word biography, written to highlight the specific award for which the awardee was nominated.

Sample: *John Doe is a teacher at Franklin Pierce Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. Franklin Pierce serves a unique population and it takes an exceptional educator to successfully motivate students to achieve their best academically while encouraging them to grow and mature socially and emotionally. "Each child has individual and specific requirements and John makes sure that each need is met with an innovative and caring approach," wrote a parent, whose daughter is in his class. Mr. Doe began his career in education as a speech pathologist in the Prince George's County Public Schools system in 1993. There he developed and implemented communication-based programs for students with autism, learning, and physical disabilities. Mr. Doe earned his MEd and BS in speech/language pathology from Keene University in Keene, NH.*

- One vertical color photograph. Headshot only. The image must be a JPG file, and at least 2 MB.

JUDGING

A selection committee of individuals who represent teachers, administrators, parents and The Washington Post will review nomination materials for each finalist. Nominations are scored using a standardized rubric. One (1) finalist will be selected as The Washington Post Teacher of the Year. The winner will be notified by The Washington Post on Monday, March 8, 2021.

WHAT DOES THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECEIVE?

The Teacher of the Year earns tremendous respect as the Washington area's best teacher. This reputation means prestige in the community and across the Washington region. The winning finalist will receive a signature trophy, a \$7,500 monetary award, a feature spot in a ½ page ad that runs in The Washington Post newspaper, a profile in The Washington Post and on washingtonpost.com. All other finalists will receive a certificate of appreciation from The Washington Post.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING FINAL MATERIALS TO THE WASHINGTON POST

All finalist materials are to be uploaded in a Dropbox and sent to Community@washpost.com by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Please be sure to use the following naming convention when uploading ALL content and photos. All 200-word biographies must be submitted as separate Word documents.

Abbreviated Award Name_Winner First and Last Name_County Represented_Category

Example: TOY_Sabrina Towson_PGC_Public School

Note: TOY = Teacher of the Year

For further information, please contact:

The Washington Post
Community Relations Department
202.334.7969
community@washpost.com
washingtonpost.com/community

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The Washington Post