



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Kay Ivey
President

**“SWEET 16” FINALISTS FOR
ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR
ANNOUNCED TODAY**

Jackie Ziegler
District I

“Honoring Alabama’s Top Educators’ Dedication to the Teaching Profession”

Tracie West
District II

Montgomery, Ala. – These 16 outstanding educators, selected as finalists for the Alabama 2022- 2023 Teacher of the Year, personify teaching excellence.

Each excels in the classroom and inspires students through mentorship. They utilize innovative classroom instruction to motivate classroom achievement.

Stephanie Bell
District III

This year’s 16 state finalists have emerged from a highly professional group of more than 150 top educators who submitted their official applications for this state honor. The Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is *one of our state’s oldest and most esteemed awards programs.*

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

Alabama State Department of Education - 2022-2023 District Teachers of the Year

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Kelly S. Parker
Mobile County School System – Tanner Williams Elementary School
District I Elementary Teacher of the Year

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Beverly S. Sport
Crenshaw County School System – Luverne High School
District I Secondary Teacher of the Year

Bellinda McRae
District VII

Meagan King Johnson
Ozark City School System – Lisenby Primary School
District II Elementary Teacher of the Year

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Laura Traylor
Ozark City School System – Carroll High School Career Center
District II Secondary Teacher of the Year

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

Geri Evans
Hoover City School System – Bluff Park Elementary School
District III Elementary Teacher of the Year

R. Paul McEwan
Hoover City School System – Hoover High School
District III Secondary Teacher of the Year

–more–

DISTRICT FINALISTS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Reggie White

*Birmingham City Schools – Booker T. Washington K-8 School
District IV Elementary Teacher of the Year*

Monquelle D. Shamburger

*Birmingham City Schools – A. H. Parker High School
District IV Secondary Teacher of the Year*

Denisha B. Streeter

*Selma City Schools – Saints Virtual Academy
District V Elementary Teacher of the Year*

William Edmonds

*Mobile County Schools – Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies
District V Secondary Teacher of the Year*

April M. Dean

*Cullman City Schools – East Elementary School
District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year*

Michele Downey

*Piedmont City Schools – Piedmont High School
District VI Secondary Teacher of the Year*

Shayna F. Swann

*Trussville City Schools – Paine Elementary School
District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year*

Andrew Franck

*Sheffield City Schools – Sheffield Junior High School
District VII Secondary Teacher of the Year*

Doetiletia F. Sims

*Huntsville City Schools – Highlands Elementary School
District VIII Elementary Teacher of the Year*

Kristen F. Steele

*Madison City Schools – James Clemens High School
District VIII Secondary Teacher of the Year*

Alabama's Teacher of the Year spends the majority of the school year serving as a full-time ambassador for education and the teaching profession, as well as presenting workshops to various groups.

Alabama's representative is also a candidate for National Teacher of the Year. *This pool of outstanding educators will soon be narrowed down to the final Top Four.*

The 2022-2023 Alabama Teacher of the Year will be announced by the Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama State Department of Education in May.

Reflecting on her experiences as the most recent finalist, and Alabama's current Teacher of the Year, Kimberly A. Johnson, said, "Congratulations to these highly skilled educators who have been selected. Each of these *Alabama Teacher of the Year 16 Finalists* truly exemplify excellence and demonstrate outstanding classroom leadership. They are elevating our profession to new levels of success."