

# **Application New York State Teacher of the Year 2026**

**Round 1: Due February 7, 2025**

The New York State Teacher of the Year program, now in its 56<sup>th</sup> year, is administered by the New York State Education Department. It is affiliated with the National Teacher of the Year program, which is administered through the Council of Chief State School Officers and sponsored by leading education associations. Teacher of the Year is the



## **Program Benefits and Responsibilities**

The New York State Teacher of the Year speaks on educational topics to organizations and groups, engages with other state teachers of the year, and traditionally participates in recognition events with the President of the United States at the White House. The New York State Teacher of the Year participates in state and national professional development and teacher leadership opportunities.

## **Selection Criteria**

A nominee for New York State Teacher of the Year:

- x Is a skilled and dedicated professional guiding students to reach their potential;
- x Demonstrates leadership and innovation that embodies lifelong learning in the classroom and community;
- x Is poised and articulate regarding current education issues;
- x Has New York State permanent or professional teaching certification within his or



**DO NOT INCLUDE LINKS, PHOTOS, WORK SAMPLES OR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**ROUND 2: Response Questions**

**Due March 28, 2025**

Applicants moved to Round 2 of the application process will be notified on or before March 7, 2025, and asked to submit their response to the following four questions as one pdf file to [toty@nysed.gov](mailto:toty@nysed.gov).

For each of the four questions below, tell your personal story, reflecting your original work and state why you'd be an excellent representative as the 2026 NYS Teacher of the Year.

**ROUND 4: Personal interview with selection committee**

**June 2025 (Albany)**

The New York State Education Department and the Teacher of the Year Committee will conduct interviews with up to 5 selected applicants. The 2026 New York State Teacher of the Year and one

**New York State Teacher of the Year Basic Data Sheet**

First Name:	Last Name:
<b>*If your certification is under a name other than the one above, please include that as well:</b>	
Home Address:	
Preferred Phone (Indicate: Home/School/Cell):	Email:
<b>1. Your current teaching position/title:</b>	
<b>2. Number of years in your current position:</b>	
<b>3. Total years of teaching experience since issuance of teaching certificate:</b>	
<b>4. In a typical day, what percentage of your full-time position is spent as a classroom teacher:</b>	
 <b>I agree that any or all the enclosed materials (except my home address and telephone number) may be shared with persons interested in promoting the Teacher of the Year Program. This includes photos from STOY program events.</b>	
 <b>I hereby certify that all materials and statements in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and all responses represent my original work.</b>	
_____	_____
<b>Signature of Applicant</b>	<b>Date</b>

School Name and Address:		
School Enrollment:	District Enrollment:	School Location:
Rural/Urban/Suburban/other		
Name of Current School Principal:		
Principal phone #:	Principal E-mail:	
<b>Signature of Current School Principal:</b>		