



The Maine County and State Teachers of the Year represent thousands of talented, professional educators in Maine. The teachers of the year serve as advocates for the teaching profession, sound education policy and most importantly, the social and academic well being of Maine students. The Teacher of the Year program is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding, dedicated, and professional educators teaching in Maine schools. The Teacher of the Year program does not attempt to single out any individual as the best teacher in Maine; rather the County and State Teachers of the Year represent the thousands of excellent educators in Maine.

**An expanded Teacher of the Year Program.** In order to honor and recognize more of Maine's exemplary classroom teachers, to promote more community engagement and for the program to reach all regions of the state, the Maine Teacher of the Year program now includes the selection of sixteen County Teachers of the Year. One of the County Teachers of the Year is selected State Teacher of the Year.

**A simplified nomination process.** In addition to the expanded program, the nomination process has also been simplified resulting in a significant increase in the number of nominations from all regions of the state. Teachers can be nominated online, in person at Bangor Savings Bank, or by mail. We encourage all districts to have in place a nominating committee and to put forth a nominee each year. While anyone can nominate a teacher, it is a local decision to support a nomination. Teachers have the opportunity to opt out of the process. To be considered for the award and continue on with the TOY process, candidates must submit written materials and build an extensive portfolio of their work. See the full description of the Teacher of the Year program at [www.mainetoy.org](http://www.mainetoy.org).

**Selecting County and State Teachers of the Year.** Following a review by the County Selection Teams (made up of business and education stakeholders) the County Teachers of the Year are announced in May and begin their year of service. The State Teacher of the Year is announced at a surprise school assembly in the fall and assumes the role in January. The State and County Teachers of the Year are ambassadors for teachers and education and are available to participate in state, regional community and policy forums and initiatives. They are available to make presentations to colleagues, business and community groups around the state.

The State Teacher of the Year participates in the National Teacher of the Year Program, attends five national events including Space Camp at NASA in Huntsville, AL, and the Washington, D.C. Recognition Week that includes an event at the White House. Other events include: Education Commission of the States National Forum, National State Teachers of the Year Conference and Pearson/ETS Capstone Conference. Civic groups and education organizations will, at times, call upon the Teacher of the Year to serve on boards or councils.

The Maine Teacher of the Year Program is managed by Educate Maine in partnership with the Maine Department of Education. Special thanks to our corporate sponsors Bangor Savings Bank, Geiger, Hannaford and Unum, and to the Maine State Board of Education and Maine State Teacher of the Year Association. For more information, visit [mainetoy.org](http://mainetoy.org) and [educatemaine.org](http://educatemaine.org).

