Teacher of the Year 2018-19

Program Overview

The Tennessee Teacher of the Year program is designed to promote recognition, respect and appreciation for teachers, to stimulate interest in teaching as a career, and to encourage public involvement in education.

The region-level Teachers of the Year are part of the Commissioner’s Teacher Advisory Council. Council members share feedback and advice on issues that impact teachers and help communicate information with teachers in their region. The nine region-level Teachers of the Year serve a one-year term on the council and the three grand division winners serve a two-year term; thus, the council has twelve total members each year.

The Tennessee Teacher of the Year represents Tennessee in the National Teacher of the Year selection process, which is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Terry Weeks, 1988 Tennessee Teacher of the Year, was named 1988 National Teacher of the Year. 1994 Teacher of the Year Frank Bluestein was named by Disney/McDonald's as the 1996 Performing Arts National Teacher of the Year. The Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2017-18 is Cicely Woodard of Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Teachers of the Year are selected competitively through five cycles: school, district, region, grand division and state in three grade bands: pre-k–4, 5–8, and 9–12. **Please note that these levels refer to the grade(s) taught by the teacher and not to the grade structure or designation of the school.**

Teachers selected at each cycle receive local recognition and awards underwritten by local sources. State recognition/awards include a banquet honoring the nine region-level Teachers of the Year.