


# Mississippi Teacher Center

...reaching the teachers our children deserve



Cecily McNair, Director

**To:** School District Superintendents  
**From:**  Cecily McNair, Director  
Mississippi Teacher Center  
**Subject:** 2010 Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program (MTOY)  
**Date:** November 17, 2009

Enclosed you will find the 2010 Mississippi Teacher of the Year application. The Mississippi Teacher Center is excited about the opportunity to administer this program that honors outstanding teachers for the accomplishments they have made during the past year. We are all aware of the demands that have been placed upon classroom teachers, and the MTOY Program provides an opportunity to show appreciation to your teachers for their diligence and dedication.

If you have not selected a District Teacher of the Year (DTOY), please start your process as soon as possible. **The deadline for submitting your nominee for Mississippi Teacher of the Year is 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2010.** Each district is allowed to nominate one teacher to represent them on the state level. The procedure used to select the District Teacher of the Year is determined by the school district. The Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program's rules are outlined in the official application. Suggestions for local programs have been included on the application. We will host a symposium and awards luncheon honoring all DTOYs in the spring. Your DTOY will be provided specifics at a later date.

By signing and submitting an entry, each superintendent agrees to the following:

- 1) To release the nominee, if selected as Mississippi Teacher of the Year, to make official appearances.
- 2) To allow the DTOY to participate in future events sponsored by the Mississippi Teacher Center and agree to furnish a substitute teacher on these occasions.

Thank you for your assistance and support of the Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program.

CM:bb

Enclosure (1)

# 2010 Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program Application



*...reaching the teachers our children deserve*

*Sponsored by  
Mississippi Department of Education  
Mississippi Teacher Center  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, MS 39205-0771  
Phone: 601-359-3631  
Website: [www.mde.k12.ms.us/mtc](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/mtc)*

## The State Program

The Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program (MTOY) recognizes outstanding performance by our public school teachers. Each local school district may honor its teachers and nominate one for the state title. The 2010 Mississippi Teacher of the Year must be a **certified classroom teacher (K-12)** in a state accredited public school who plans to **teach** next year. The teacher should have a superior ability to inspire students, possess leadership capabilities, and be an active member of the community.

Official entry forms and instructions are sent to each district's central office. The local Teacher of the Year entry form, signed by the school building principal, superintendent, and the candidate is returned to the Mississippi Teacher Center for judging. Four finalists (one from each Congressional District) will be chosen. The teacher selected as the Mississippi Teacher of the Year will be the state's nominee for National Teacher of the Year the following year.

## The Rules

- ◆ The Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program is open to all **certified classroom teachers** in grades K-12 who **teach** in state-accredited public schools and plan to teach the following year. Administrators, supervisors, college, and university teachers are not eligible.
- ◆ Each school district is allowed only one entry.
- ◆ The local superintendent is the only person who may submit nominations. All nominations must be typed and signed by your **principal** and **superintendent**.
- ◆ Nominations (**the original application and 5 stapled copies**) must be submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) by **January 29, 2010**. Nominees will be judged initially on the basis of the application. **Do not send additional materials.**
- ◆ By signing and submitting an entry, each superintendent agrees to allow a Mississippi Teacher of the Year Selection Committee representative to visit and video tape the local nominee in the classroom, should he/she be chosen as one of the Regional Finalists. This visit will be scheduled prior to the selection of the state Teacher of the Year. Teacher of the Year finalists may be required to submit a video of a classroom lesson.
- ◆ Upon entering the program, the superintendent agrees to allow his/her local nominee to serve on the 2010 Selection Committee, should the teacher be chosen as Mississippi Teacher of the Year. The superintendent also agrees to allow the nominee time out of his/her classroom to make official appearances as state Teacher of the Year. The superintendent shall agree to release the nominee to participate in the Mississippi Teacher Forum and the MTOY Symposium. The district agrees to furnish a substitute on these occasions.
- ◆ If the Mississippi Teacher of the Year is selected 2010 National Teacher of the Year, his/her district agrees to release the teacher from classroom responsibilities for one year to serve as spokesperson and advocate for the teaching profession.
- ◆ The decision of the Mississippi Teacher of the Year Selection Committee is final. Failure to comply with any of these rules results in disqualification.

## **The Expectations**

The Mississippi Teacher of the Year represents all of the outstanding teachers in Mississippi. The teacher serves as an ambassador for the profession as well as a spokesperson for teachers. The MTOY program has developed over the years and provides enriching experiences for the selected teachers. The following are examples of opportunities available to the MTOY:

- ◆ Present his/her platform for the year served,
- ◆ Attend workshops and seminars designed to promote the teacher's platform,
- ◆ Represent the MDE at workshops and conferences,
- ◆ Chair committees and task forces to support teaching and learning,
- ◆ Assist in the recruitment and retention of teachers in the profession,
- ◆ Present his/her area of expertise at workshops and conferences, and
- ◆ Speak to civic and business groups.

## **The Awards**

The Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program provides the following awards.

- ◆ \$5,000.00 will be given to the state MTOY from the Mississippi Department of Education.
- ◆ MTOY and finalists will receive formal recognition at the 2010 MTOY Awards Luncheon.

## The Local Program

Local districts are free to conduct their programs the way that works best for them as long as the rules that apply to the state and national programs are followed. Listed below are some tips that you may find helpful for conducting your local Teacher of the Year program.

### Program Design

- ◆ Start planning early.
- ◆ Give the project high priority. Talk to administrators in other districts that already participate.
- ◆ Include teachers in the planning process.
- ◆ Make the focus of your program the recognition of local teachers, not the competition for a state-level nominee.
- ◆ Recognize more than your teacher nominees as part of any awards program or event to promote the perception of the program as one that recognizes teaching excellence and not one that divides winners and losers.
- ◆ It is a good idea to designate one central office staff person to serve as Teacher of the Year coordinator.

### Nomination and Selection

- ◆ If possible, use a democratic process to select your nominee.
- ◆ Districts might decide to allow teachers to nominate themselves for the honor. This may work well in smaller districts.
- ◆ Principals on each campus might ask teachers to nominate one of their peers to represent their campus in the local district contest. The nomination forms might include supporting statements.
- ◆ Principals might ask department heads to select a campus nominee. Campus faculty councils or advisory groups might select several nominees with one campus representative chosen from among the nominees by vote of all teachers on the campus.
- ◆ Involve PTAs in selecting campus nominees.
- ◆ Once campus representatives are chosen, or if nominations are open to all interested teachers, a district selection committee might be appointed. This committee might include representatives of parent groups, teacher organizations, non-certified personnel and principals, the president of a high school student council, the local newspaper publisher, the Chamber of Commerce president, a school board member, previous Teachers of the Year or others. Existing committees within the district, such as curriculum councils or district-wide faculty councils, might also take part in selections.

### Publicity and Sponsorship

- ◆ Enlist the help of your local newspaper to publicize the selection of your Teacher of the Year. Tell your local news media representatives about the program and this positive story about public education.
- ◆ Ask local businesses and organizations to get involved with your program. Seek their support for awards and recognition.
- ◆ Honor the winner and finalists at special functions and at any annual staff banquet. Ask your local Teacher of the Year to represent your district at community functions and regional, state or national conferences.

The MTOY Program is sponsored and coordinated by the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Teacher Center.

The MTOY Program is part of the National Teacher of the Year Program sponsored by the National Council of Chief State School Officers with support from Scholastic, Inc.

For additional information on the Mississippi or the National program, contact the Mississippi Teacher Center at 601-359-3631.

# The Application

The following questions and information make up the application packet for the 2010 Mississippi Teacher of the Year. Answer all questions, but limit your number of pages to the amount specified. Please do not include information other than what is requested. Applications must be typed in 10 – 12 font size only.

## I. Basic Data Sheet

Please complete the attached application form and return with the following information below.

## II. Educational History and Professional Development Activities (two double-spaced pages)

- A. Beginning with most recent, list colleges and universities attended including post-graduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
- B. Beginning with most recent, list teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level, and subject area.
- C. Beginning with most recent, list professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
- D. Beginning with most recent, list staff development leadership activity and leadership activity in the training of future teachers.
- E. Beginning with most recent, list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

## III. Professional Biography (two double-spaced pages)

- A. What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

## IV. Community Involvement (two double-spaced pages)

- A. Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities such as volunteer work, civic, and other group activities.

## V. Philosophy of Teaching (two double-spaced pages)

- A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.
- B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

## VI. Education Issues and Trends (two double-spaced pages)

- A. What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address **one** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.

## VII. The Teaching Profession (two double-spaced pages)

- A. What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?
- B. What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?

## VIII. National Teacher of the Year (one double-spaced page)

- A. As the National Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession. What would be your message? What would you communicate to your profession and to the general public?

## IX. Letters of Support (limit of three letters)

Include **three** (3) letters of support from any of the following: superintendent, principal, administrator, colleague, student/former student, parent or civic leader.

## X. Publicity Photograph

Include with the application package one photograph suitable for publicity purposes. A school picture is acceptable.

# 2010 Mississippi Teacher of the Year Application Form

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Congressional District I \_\_\_\_\_ II \_\_\_\_\_ III \_\_\_\_\_ IV \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject(s) Taught \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) Taught \_\_\_\_\_

Total Years Teaching Experience \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Present Position \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**(For publicity purposes only)**

Spouse's name and occupation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names, ages, schools or occupations (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**School Building Principal**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval and that if the nominee is selected as the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

**Signature of School Principal** \_\_\_\_\_

**School District Superintendent**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

District Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval and that if the nominee is selected as the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

**Signature of District Superintendent** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher of the Year Candidate**

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address and telephone) may be shared with persons interested in promoting the Mississippi Teacher of the Year Program. I also acknowledge that if selected as the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, I will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of my recognition in order to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor.

**Signature of Candidate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_