

Teacher of the Year

Section 1. Goals. The goals of the Teacher of the Year program are to:

1. Recognize outstanding teaching in East Allen County Schools at the elementary and secondary levels.
2. Develop a standardized process for choosing the Teacher of the Year Candidate for East Allen County Schools.
3. Develop a system of rewards for those distinguished teachers.

Section 2. Rationale. East Allen County Schools has many excellent educators. This is one of the ways that East Allen County Schools and the East Allen Educators Association have of recognizing and publicizing those deserving professionals and promoting the educational excellence of East Allen County Schools.

Section 3. Process.

1. Building Level

Each school will choose a teacher as the school's candidate for the Teacher of the Year competition. To qualify as nominee a teacher must be:

- A. A licensed semi-permanent or permanent member of the teachers' bargaining unit with at least six (6) years teaching experience; three (3) of which must be in East Allen County Schools.
- B. An exemplary, dedicated teacher;
- C. Actively involved in the teaching profession;
- D. Actively involved in his/her community, and have distinguished himself/herself as a leader; and
- E. Willing to participate in the corporation and the State Teacher of the Year competitions.

Teachers may nominate other teachers, administrators may nominate teachers, or a teacher may self-nominate him/herself. Nominations need to be submitted to the building principal and the East Allen Educators' building representative. Teachers retiring at the end of the current school year are not eligible for nomination.

A Selection Committee will choose the best nominee from the names so submitted. The Selection Committee will be as follows:

1. At the elementary school level:
 - A. The building principal,
 - B. The EAEA representative or designee,
 - C. A teacher mutually agreed upon by the EAEA representative and the building principal.

2. At the secondary level:
 - A. The building principal and an assistant principal,
 - B. The two EAEA building representatives and/or designees,
 - C. A teacher mutually agreed upon by the building principal and building representative.

The teacher nominee selected at each building will complete a Teacher of the Year Nomination Form (see Appendix A) and submit it to the building principal. The building principal will send the nomination form to the Superintendent's Executive Assistant.

Section 4. Corporation Level. The corporation Selection Committee will review the corporation nomination form as submitted by the teachers selected at each building, and vote for the East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year at the elementary and secondary levels. The ballots will be returned to the Superintendent's Executive Assistant. The nominee receiving the most votes at the elementary and secondary level will be East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year nominee at that level.

The corporation Selection Committee will make a determination for the East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year based on a review of the corporations nomination forms of the two finalists. The ballots will be returned to the Superintendent's Executive Assistant. The nominee receiving the most votes will be East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year and will compete in the Indiana Teacher of the Year Program.

The East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year Committee will consist of the following members:

1. Executive Director of School Management
2. Director of Curriculum & Instruction
3. Assistant Superintendent of School Management and Special Programs
4. EAEA President
5. Current EACS Elementary Teacher of the Year
6. One elementary teacher appointed by the EAEA president
7. One middle school teacher appointed by the EAEA president
8. One high school teacher appointed by the EAEA president
9. One special services teacher appointed by the EAEA president

Section 5. Selection Process Timeline. The selection process will take place from February through April with specific dates and deadlines to be determined each year by the Superintendent's Executive Assistant.

The EAEA President will announce the East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year at the EAEA Spring Retirement/Recognition Banquet.

Section 6. Awards. The overall winner of East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year award will receive the following:

1. The East Allen County Schools Teacher of the Year will receive for the next budget year, a line item in the amount of \$2500 for a national conference, a state conference or to pursue advanced study in their major field or area of study, and attendance.
2. Released time and expenses for the Teacher of the Year and a guest to attend the state recognition banquet.
3. Expenses for the Teacher of the Year and a guest to attend the EAEA Spring Recognition Banquet.
4. The teacher may be invited by the Superintendent to represent the school district at various receptions, dinners, award ceremonies, and other appropriate occasions. In the event these are held during the school day, released time will be provided.
5. The East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year will receive an extra stipend of \$1000 to prepare information required by the Indiana Department of Education in regards to the State Teacher of the Year competition.
6. A plaque and recognition certificate.

The semi-finalist for East Allen County Schools' Teacher of the Year at the elementary level or secondary school level will receive the following:

1. Up to a \$1000 stipend to attend the educational conference of his/her choice.
2. Expenses for the teacher and a guest to attend the EAEA Spring Recognition Banquet.
3. A recognition plaque and certificate.

Each building's selected nominee will receive the following:

1. Expenses for the teacher and a guest to attend the EAEA Spring Recognition Banquet.
2. A recognition certificate.