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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

February 6, 2020

( X ) Action Required  
Nominations Due: March 1, 2020  
Applications Due: April 1, 2020  
( X ) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 010-20 EDUCATOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School District Communications Staff  
Elementary and Secondary School Principals  
Educational Service District Teacher Award Coordinators  
Educational Associations  
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2021 Teacher of the Year Nominations

CONTACT: Hilary Seidel, Statewide Recognition Coordinator  
360-725-6117, [hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us](mailto:hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us),

## BACKGROUND

Every year the Teacher of the Year program celebrates the hard work and dedication of public school teachers and selects one educator as the Washington State Teacher of the Year. Nominations are now open. All public, full-time teachers who spend at least 50% of their time in a classroom setting with students, plan to keep teaching through the 2020–21 school year, and have not previously been recognized as a State or Regional Teacher of the Year are eligible. Anyone can [submit a nomination online](#). Nominees must complete the online application to be considered for the award.

Washington's educational service districts (ESDs) review completed applications and select one regional finalist each. A state committee selects the Washington State Teacher of the Year from this group of regional finalists. The committee uses a written application and in person presentations and interviews to make their selection. Washington's Teacher of the Year program is guided by criteria set by the National Teacher of the Year program:

1. The teacher has the respect and admiration of their community.
2. The teacher is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
3. The teacher collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success.
4. The teacher deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large.
5. The teacher demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
6. The teacher expresses themselves in an engaging and effective way.

OSPI recognizes finalists and announces the state winner at a fall awards ceremony. Regional finalists and the state winner receive awards from program sponsors and attend a variety of professional learning and recognition events. The 2021 State Teacher of the Year will be relieved of their full-time teaching responsibilities January–June 2021 to participate in the National Teacher of the Year program events and write, travel, and speak on behalf of the program and the teaching profession.

### **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

For questions regarding this bulletin or award programs, please [visit our awards webpages](#) or contact Hilary Seidel, Statewide Recognition Coordinator, at 360-725-6117 or email [hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us](mailto:hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins page](#) of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT  
Deputy Superintendent

Cindy Rockholt, NBCT  
Assistant Superintendent  
Educator Growth and Development

Hilary Seidel  
Statewide Recognition Coordinator  
Educator Growth and Development

CR:hs

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BULLETIN NO. 010-20 EGAD

February 6, 2020

Page 3

*complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or [equity@k12.wa.us](mailto:equity@k12.wa.us).*