

Application Process

Join the Illinois State Board of Education in recognizing the incredible work happening in and around Illinois schools, as the result of exemplary educators who far too often go unrecognized outside of their schools or districts.

Please see our eligibility guidelines for teachers and other educators.

Illinois Teacher of the Year

2023 Illinois Teacher of the Year applicants must:

- Have completed at least 5 years of teaching at the end of the current school year
- Currently teach in an Illinois school district more than 50% of the school day
- Be prepared to hold a teaching position in an Illinois school district during the next two school years
- Not have been selected as a finalist or Regional Teacher of the Year since 2018. (Previously awarded finalists or Regional TOYs are not eligible to participate for a period of 5 years)

2023 Illinois Teacher of the Year applications must include:

- Applicant information
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Professional biography (250 words)
- Three long-answer responses (1,000 words each)

Classroom Teacher applicants are eligible for the following awards:

- Regional Teacher of the Year (See page 3)
- Bilingual Teacher of the Year
- Special Education Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher of the Year
- 2023 Illinois Teacher of the Year (1,000 words each)
- Special Recognition
- Meritorious Service
- Awards of Excellence

*Applicants for the 2023 Teacher of the Year Award, which includes a one-year sabbatical, must include a the signature of a superintendent/administrator on their application.

isbe.net/TeacheroftheYear

Outstanding Early Career Educator

2023 Outstanding Early Career Educator applicants must:

- Have completed 1-4 years experience at the end of the current school year
- Currently teach in an Illinois school district more than 50% of the school day
- Be prepared to hold a teaching position in an Illinois school district during the next two school years

2023 Early Career Educator applications must include:

- Applicant information
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Professional biography (250 words)
- Three long-answer responses (1,000 words each)

Classroom Teacher applicants are eligible for the following awards:

- Special Recognition
- Meritorious Service
- Awards of Excellence
- 2023 Outstanding Early Career Educator



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Other Educators

Administrators

Administrator applicants must have:

- Applicant information
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Professional biography (250 words)
- Three long-answer responses (1,000 words each)

Student Support Personnel

Includes school nurse, psychologist, social worker, counselor, speech/language pathologist, or librarian.

Student Support Personnel applicants must have:

- Applicant information
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Professional biography (250 words)
- Three long-answer responses (1,000 words each)

Community Volunteers

Individuals not employed by the school/district, that positively contribute to their school/district.

Community Volunteer applicants must have:

- Applicant information
- Three letters of recommendation

Educational Service Personnel

Aides/paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, custodians, administrative assistants, support professionals, bus drivers, or resource officers.

Educational Service Personnel applicants must have:

- Applicant information
- Three letters of recommendation

Teams

A group of individuals from any of the categories that positively contribute to their school/district.

Team applicants must have:

- A point of contact
- Team information
- Three letters of recommendation

These five categories are eligible for the following awards:

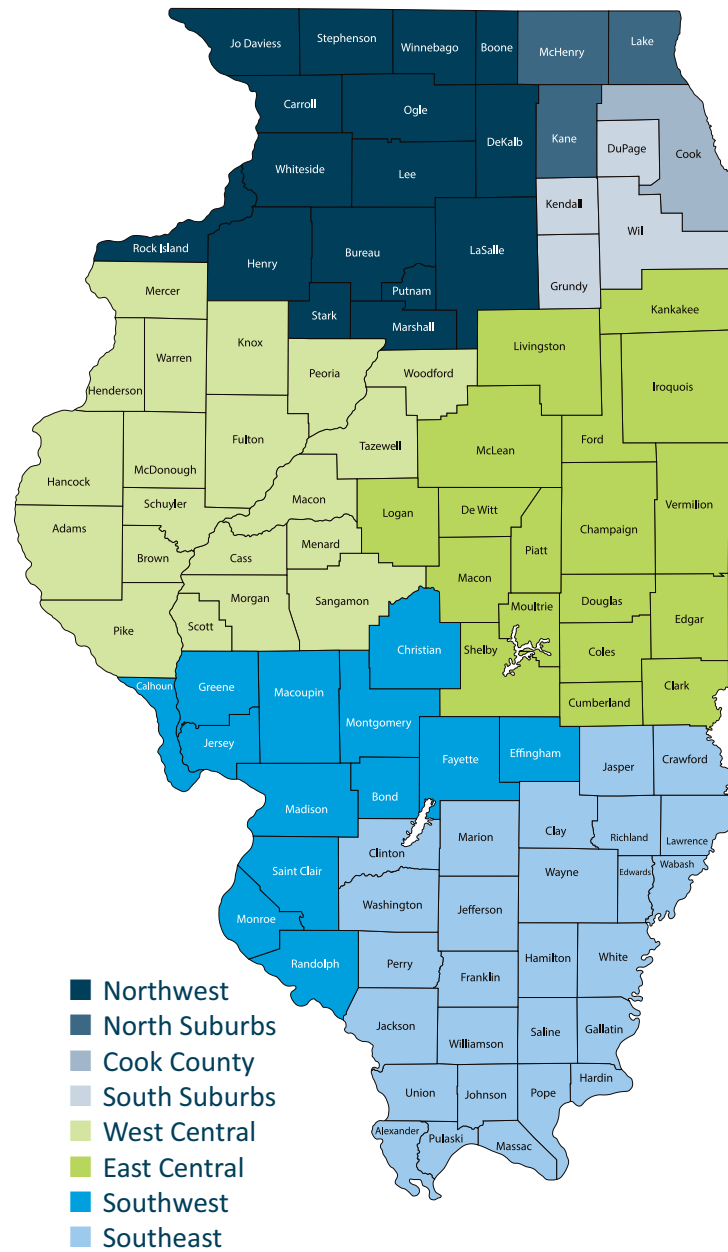
- Special Recognition
- Meritorious Service
- Awards of Excellence

Nominate an Outstanding Individual or Team in your school community today!

Nominations Close Nov. 18, 2022

Applications Close Dec. 2, 2022

Award Categories



Illinois Teacher of the Year

Regional Teachers of the Year

- Cook County Regional Teacher of the Year (3)
- East Central Regional Teacher of the Year
- North Suburbs Regional Teacher of the Year
- Northwest Teacher of the Year
- South Suburbs Teacher of the Year
- Southeast Teacher of the Year
- Southwest Teacher of the Year
- West Central Teacher of the Year

- Bilingual Teacher of the Year
- Special Education Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher of the Year

Outstanding Early Career Educator

Special Recognition

Meritorious Service

Awards of Excellence