The Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY) Program recognizes the great contribution teachers make to the state and to the learning community. The program recognizes and honors teacher excellence. It does not attempt to select the “best” teacher; rather, to identify, from among many outstanding teachers, one teacher to serve as a visible and vocal representative of what is best in the profession.

The MTOY program is sponsored by: the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the State Board of Education (SBE), and Meemic.

The National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) program is sponsored by the ING Foundation and Target, and is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), in partnership with the University of Phoenix Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs.

The MTOY program provides a teacher with a tremendous opportunity for personal growth and professional influence on education policy, student learning, and teacher professional development. The MTOY meets with policymakers, educators, parents, students, and citizen groups, sharing a passion for teaching and a vision for learning and schools. The MTOY participates in the National Teacher of the Year activities including a national conference in Dallas, Texas, announcement of the NTOY in Washington, D.C., and Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Funding for the trip to Dallas and Washington, D.C. must be secured by private sponsorships. Space Camp costs are covered by CCSSO.

The selection of the MTOY also brings great recognition to the teacher’s school system. A financial award is presented to the school by Meemic and many gifts are presented for the teacher’s use in the classroom including a classroom technology package from SMART Technologies. Professional development is provided to the teacher who can then bring that new learning to other teachers in the district.

PURPOSE OF THE MTOY AWARD

- To recognize excellence in the teaching profession.
- To provide opportunities for the MTOY to interact with policymakers.
- To provide a public voice/spokesperson for the teaching profession.
- To focus public attention on the importance of teachers.
CRITERIA

The successful MTOY candidate:

- is an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teacher in a Michigan school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12;
- plans to continue in an active teaching status. Supervisory and administrative responsibilities should be of secondary consideration;
- spends a minimum of 50% of her/his time teaching students;
- inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- has the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- plays an active and useful role in the community, as well as in the school district;
- is poised and articulate;
- has the energy to withstand a busy schedule;
- must be a highly qualified teacher in the grade/subject they are teaching as defined through the No Child Left Behind Act;
- must be in good standing with her/his district;
- has a minimum of five years of successful teaching experience.

WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

The MTOY will serve as the voice for Michigan teachers and travel across the state and nation, meeting with policy makers, educators, parents, students, and citizen groups. He/she will often be asked to speak at education conferences and also participates in a non-voting capacity at monthly State Board of Education meetings.

The MTOY participates in the NTOY activities including a national conference in Dallas, Texas; announcement of the NTOY in Washington, D.C.; and Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The MTOY participates in up to three Meemic-sponsored events.

For further details regarding MTOY duties, please refer to MTOY Position Description at: www.michigan.gov/mtoy.

COST RESPONSIBILITIES

The MTOY remains as a full-time employee in his/her district. Districts may opt to provide the teacher with an adjusted teaching schedule to accommodate the extra expectations from both the district and state levels that are associated with the role of MTOY. This is a decision to be made at the district level. The MDE will reimburse the district for substitute teacher costs when the MTOY attends events required by the MDE or State Board of Education.

Meemic will provide an automobile for the MTOY during the school year. The MTOY will need to complete Form 1099 for tax purposes for the use of the car and will be responsible to insure the car. Meemic will also provide a cash award to the MTOY’s school to be used for educational purposes, not for the MTOY’s travel expenses. The MTOY will receive a briefcase and several items of Meemic-branded apparel.
TIMELINE

To access the 2014-2015 MTOY timeline, go to MDE site: www.michigan.gov/mtoy and click on 2014-2015 MTOY Timeline.

NOMINATIONS

MTOY NOMINATIONS
Colleagues, administrators, board members, parents, students, education-related organizations, such as the PTO, and other community members may submit online MTOY nominations for teachers who are in good standing with their district/employer. The teacher must be a “Highly Qualified Teacher” as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act and be in good standing with their district/employer. Those who are nominated online will receive an invitation from their Superintendent of Public Instruction to apply for the MTOY position. District superintendents receive a copy of this letter.

TO NOMINATE A 2014-2015 MTOY TEACHER
Go to MDE website: www.michigan.gov/mtoy and click on 2014-2015 Online Nomination Form. Complete the form and click submit.

DISTRICT RECOGNITION
Recognition of the district’s nominated teachers by the local school board at a regularly scheduled board meeting is one way to extend the community’s thanks for the contributions teachers make every day.

APPLICATION


All completed 2014-2015 MTOY applications are to be emailed to: MTOY@michigan.gov by January 6, 2014, 11:59 p.m.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the MTOY application process, please contact Ann-Marie Smith at SmithA24@michigan.gov or Barb Fardell at FardellB@michigan.gov.