

# THE SPIRIT OF A STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR



## A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

State Teachers of the Year (STOYs) are recognized learners and leaders committed to deepening their understanding of the issues impacting educational equity. With integrity, openness, authenticity and professionalism, we adhere to the code of conduct while accepting the challenge to uplift individual teachers as well as the entire education profession. Surrounded by a community of colleagues willing to grow in understanding and advocacy, we seek opportunities to speak truth to power in the interest of students, families, educators, and the democratic ideal that all children can and should have equitable access to public education.

To be a State Teacher of the Year is to:

- Model integrity for myself, my state, and the teaching profession.
- Embrace discomfort as an opportunity for professional growth.
- Value and learn from diverse ideas, opinions, perspectives and experiences.
- Practice speaking up and speaking out on education issues.
- Advocate for students and the education profession.
- Celebrate and encourage appreciation for the diverse abilities, qualities, and achievements of students everywhere.
- Build people up by supporting colleagues, staff, and stakeholders with appropriate feedback, encouragement, and gratitude.
- Serve as a positive ambassador for teachers, students and families, and education, while understanding that I speak for myself.

As a State Teacher of the Year, I recognize the importance of:

- Growing in understanding of how my own perceptions of race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background and/or family income impact my interactions with others.
- Actively and thoughtfully engaging with fellow STOYs during CCSSO events and times in between, as I am able.
- Respecting and striving to understand the autonomy of each individual within this program.
- Seizing the opportunity to learn from and build sustainable relationships with individuals and organizations which support education.
- Demonstrating compassion and leadership by notifying CCSSO staff of any concerns over harassment, hazing, bullying, and discrimination, as well as concerns over safety, personal distress, or violations of this Code of Conduct.
- Honoring the privacy of others by asking for permission when using photos, videos, or recordings, or when posting their personally identifying information.

*Note: This Code of Conduct was written in 2018 by State Teachers of the Year for State Teachers of the Year. It is a living document, and CCSSO welcomes your thoughts and suggestions on how to keep it relevant and meaningful.*

