



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 6, 2018

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Nominations Open for Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY) 2019-2020

We need your help to identify the next Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY). The MTOY program, sponsored by the Meemic Foundation, recognizes outstanding educational leaders across our state for their work to elevate the teaching profession.

Between now and Friday, October 12 at 11:59 p.m., [our online nomination form](#) will be open for you to nominate a teacher whom you feel is an exceptional educational leader and has made substantial contributions to their profession. I would also like to encourage you to post this information on your website, in your faculty lounges, and in parent newsletters.

The Michigan Department of Education supports the Michigan Teacher of the Year program as a key element in advancing Goals #2 of our Top 10 in 10 strategic plan. These goals reflect the MDE's belief that strong leadership in our districts and schools includes teacher leadership, and that our MTOY and Regional TOYs serve as role models for high-quality instruction.

Each nominated teacher who meets the eligibility requirements will receive an email inviting them to complete Part A of the 2019-2020 MTOY application process. To be eligible, a nominee must have a valid Michigan teaching certificate, at least five completed years of teaching experience in Michigan, and work directly with students in their current position. Each completed Part A application will be reviewed by a group of educational stakeholders from [each of these 10 regions](#) with the highest scoring applicants named regional semifinalists. Those semifinalists will then complete Part B of the MTOY application. The highest scoring applicant in each region after this round will determine that region's Teacher of the Year. Each regional MTOY will then be interviewed by a panel of state-wide educational leaders to determine the 2019-2020 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

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The MTOY serves as a voice for all Michigan teachers by participating in monthly State Board of Education meetings and meeting with state education stakeholders, as well as attending national events involving other Teachers of the Year. The MTOY will remain as a full-time employee of the district.

Thank you for your assistance with these efforts to recognize excellent teachers. For timely responses to your questions, please email mtoy@michigan.gov. You can also call 517-335-5236 or contact Josh Roesner at roesnerj1@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance