

To: District Leaders

From: Rebecca Estes, Director Leadership and Innovation

Date: April 10, 2020

Subject: 2021 Indiana Teacher of the Year Selection Process

Each year, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) conducts the Teacher of the Year Program to recognize outstanding classroom teachers from across the state with the mission of inspiring, rejuvenating, and celebrating the teaching profession. One person, in accordance with National Teacher of the Year guidelines, is chosen to represent Indiana teachers at the national level.

IDOE will work with the teacher chosen to represent Indiana and their district to support a year of service allowing the teacher to remain in the classroom while supporting release time to participate in valuable opportunities as a voice for Indiana educators.

Indiana's Teacher of the Year [selection process](#) begins with districts implementing a local process to determine District Teacher(s) of the Year and encouraging up to two (one elementary and one secondary level) teachers to submit the state level [application](#) as their district's nominee(s).

However, in light of early school closures, IDOE recognizes that some districts may not have the capacity to complete a typical selection process and would like to extend flexibility for the 2021 Teacher of the Year nomination process that allows district leaders to endorse more than two nominees for the state selection process. This flexibility will allow district leaders to:

- Follow their typical selection process and nominate up to two teachers by encouraging them to submit the state level application with their endorsement;
- Accept nominations through a locally-created process that encourages multiple nominees to submit the state level application with their endorsement.

State level [applications](#) from endorsed nominees must be submitted to IDOE by **July 3, 2020**. This date allows for the state screening and selection process to be completed in time to recognize the 2021 Indiana Teacher of the Year, and aligns with CCSSO's National Application Deadline and Induction Programming timeline.

Questions can be directed to [Rebecca Estes](#).