



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR 16 FINALISTS
ANNOUNCED TODAY!**

“Committed to Teaching Excellence – Judges Prepare to Narrow Field Down to Four”

Montgomery, Ala. – Dedicated and highly skilled teachers are essential for our state to continue achieving academic excellence – preparing the nation’s next generation of top professionals. These **16 outstanding educators** selected as finalists for the *Alabama 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year*, exemplify these qualities.

Each has excelled in the classroom and is preparing all students for success through mentorship, innovative classroom instruction, and a personal commitment to academic achievement. These educators exemplify the teaching profession at its best!

This year’s 16 state finalists have emerged from a group of over 140 highly skilled educators who submitted official applications. The *Alabama Teacher of the Year Program* is one of our state’s oldest and most esteemed awards programs.

Alabama State Department of Education - 2019-2020 District Teachers of the Year

J. Scott Parks

Saraland Elementary School, Saraland City School System
District I Elementary Teacher of the Year

Kathy Hughes

Spanish Fort High School, Baldwin County School System
District I Secondary Teacher of the Year

Laura G. Traylor

Joseph W. Lisenby Primary School, Ozark City School System
District II Elementary Teacher of the Year

Jacque Middleton

Auburn High School, Auburn City School System
District II Secondary Teacher of the Year

Vickey Glover Bailey

Chelsea Park Elementary School, Shelby County School System
District III Elementary Teacher of the Year

Kimberly Lee Mitchell

Talladega Career Technical Center, Talladega City School System
District III Secondary Teacher of the Year

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2019-2020 Alabama Teacher of the Year – Announcement of 16 Finalists

Abby Becker

Hall-Kent Elementary School, Homewood City School System
District IV Elementary Teacher of the Year

Stephanie Huffman

McAdory High School, Jefferson County School System
District IV Secondary Teacher of the Year

Catherine Anne Kenny

Pike Road Middle School, Pike Road City School System
District V Elementary Teacher of the Year

Mashika Tempero-Culliver

Selma High School, Selma City School System
District V Secondary Teacher of the Year

Leslie Hughes

Walter M. Kennedy School, Pell City School System
District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year

Valerie Curtis

Pell City High School, Pell City School System
District VI Secondary Teacher of the Year

Ana Carolina Behel

Weeden Elementary School, Florence City School System
District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year

Pamela Sims Pugh

Mountain Brook Junior High School, Mountain Brook City School System
District VII Secondary Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Perkinson

Goldsmith-Schiffman Elementary School, Huntsville City School System
District VIII Elementary Teacher of the Year

Leah McRae

James Clemens High School, Madison City School System
District VIII Secondary Teacher of the Year

This pool of outstanding educators will soon be narrowed down to the Top Four.

The 2019-2020 Alabama Teacher of the Year will be announced at a special ceremony hosted by the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 6 p.m., at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery.

Alabama's Teacher of the Year spends the majority of the school year serving as a full-time *ambassador for education* and the teaching profession, as well as presenting workshops to various groups. **Additionally, Alabama's representative is a candidate for National Teacher of the Year.**

Reflecting on her experiences as the most recently announced finalist and Alabama's current Teacher of the Year, Zestlan Simmons said, "Congratulations to these 16 innovative educators, who have been selected to represent our local districts and school regions. These wonderful teachers are elevating our profession to new levels. They are working hard every day to ensure all students are prepared for success."

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