TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Dear Superintendents and Teacher of the Year Liaisons,

Greetings! We hope that you are excited about the upcoming holiday season. We want to remind you that it's the time of the year when we embark on the exciting journey of selecting the 2027-28 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year.

The attached timeline shows the key dates for the 2027-28 selection process. Please take note of the first deadline, which is submitting your district's Teacher(s) of the Year to this office **by Thursday, February 11, 2027**.

We are in the process of confirming the date and venue for the gala in September 2027 but hope to have it soon. **We are considering having it on Thursday, September 9, 2027,** but would like to find out first if this date would cause a conflict for any districts. Please email me if this is the case for your district.

The 2027-28 county application and instructions will be made available after the new year.

TOY Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for consideration as one of the two County Teachers of the Year and to qualify for the statewide competition, district TOY applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Hold full credentials as a teacher
- Be employed full-time or as a long-term substitute during the 2026-27 school year to teach any pre-kindergarten through grade twelve curriculum
- Having primary responsibility for teaching, even if assigned some administrative duties
- Have completed a minimum of eight years of teaching at the time of application submission

Please note that while a district may choose an educator with less than eight years of teaching experience to be its representative, such individuals would not be eligible for selection as a County Teacher of the Year or advancement to the state competition. However, they would be recognized alongside the other district honorees throughout the process.

We would also ask that you ensure anyone put forward to be recognized in the County Teacher of the Year program has the desire and capacity to participate in the planned ceremonies. While nominated teachers are not obligated to participate in the application process, we do ask that they commit to participate in the opening reception and awards dinner.

In terms of grants, if a TOY selected for a district does not teach during the 2027-28 school year, the classroom grant money remains with the school where they were chosen. Similarly, if the TOY relocates out of the district, the grant money stays with the originating school. If the TOY changes schools within the same district, the grant money follows the teacher to their new school.

Thank you for your dedication to recognizing and celebrating outstanding educators.

As always, if you have any questions about the process, please contact me or my team at communications@cccoe.k12.ca.us or (925) 643-3325.