

SOUTH WHITTIER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Department of Human Resources



"Success for Every Student"

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 18, 2019
TO: SWSD Employees
FROM: Dr. Marti Ayala, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
RE: **Teacher of the Year Program 2019-2020**
DEADLINE – April 8, 2019
CC: Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent

Site secretaries, please post a copy of this memorandum and the nomination form for the **Teacher of the Year Program** in a location where all employees can view. This information will be emailed to all employees and posted on the District website.

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Department of Human Resources



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DATE: March 18, 2019
TO: SWSD
FROM: Dr. Marti Ayala, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
RE: **Teacher of the Year Program 2019-2020**
CC: Dr. Gonzales, Superintendent

The South Whittier School District will participate in the annual California Department of Education Teachers of the Year Program which is sponsored through the Los Angeles County Office of Education program for the local, state and national program. This year, we have another opportunity to select a SWSD Teacher of the Year candidate for the 2019-2020 school year. The candidate selected to be SWSDs Teacher of the Year will have an opportunity to go on to the state and national competition.

The nominee for this honor is expected to be an exceptionally skillful and dedicated teacher. The candidate should have the respect and admiration of students, parents and co-workers. It is further expected that the individual play an active role in the community as well as in the school. One of the most important qualities the nominee must possess is a superior ability to inspire the love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Nominations for Teacher of the Year are now open. Every district employee is eligible to make a nomination. To do so, submit the attached nomination form with your rationale for the nomination clearly stated. Include in your statement, specific criteria in the areas of dedication to students, educational accomplishments, personal growth, personal attributes, professional skills, community involvement, professional development, and any significant factors, which led the person to choose teaching as a career. We are enclosing an excerpt from the State criteria. Please read this before making your nomination.

All nominations must be submitted to the Department of Human Resources **no later than 4:30 p.m., April 8, 2019**. For your convenience, the application is available on the district website under "Staff Resources". All applications must be typed. *Please do not change the format of the application.* A local committee will make the final selection with community and district wide representation.

Once selected, the candidate will be asked to submit to the Los Angeles County Office of Education a professional biography, educational history, and a list of professional development activities and awards. Each candidate will address their philosophy of teaching and current educational issues and trends. A statement on how each participant strengthens the teaching profession, how they view accountability and their perceptions on encouraging the profession will also be required. Finally, each nominee will address how they will serve as a representative and spokesperson for the entire teaching profession. *Before nominating someone, find out if this teacher will be willing or able to participate in this program if selected.*

**Local, State, and National
Teachers of the Year Program**
Selection Criteria

The local, state, and county selection committees will evaluate applicants for the California Teachers of the Year Program within the context of the many ways the honored teachers may be called upon to contribute, such as:

- Commenting--both orally and in writing, both in person and through various media--on current issues and challenges that confront the educational community;
- Responding meaningfully, thoughtfully, and concisely to the many concerns that may be raised in public forums--concerns that may range from something as specific as how to resolve a playground argument to issues of statewide impact such as credentialing requirements;
- Explaining specific programs, instructional strategies, or activities they have developed or contributed to, how those efforts have benefited students, and how the experiences can be helpful in other schools and to other teachers; and
- Conducting demonstration lessons, acting as resources for fellow teachers, and contributing to teacher recruitment efforts.

Within this context, the state selection committee will examine--in a balanced, critical, thoughtful, impartial, and fair manner--the applicants':

- **Professional Growth.** Collegiate-level education, professional development activities, in-service training, and record of teaching and related experience;
- **Commitment.** Efforts to help colleagues enhance and improve their skills and strategies, involvement in educational development activities in the school and outside of school, and participation in civic and community affairs;
- **Personal Attributes.** Leadership and effective participation in group activities, creativity in approaching problems and challenges, and proficiency at communicating ideas clearly, concisely, and effectively; and
- **Professional Skills.** Delivering a program of instruction and ongoing assessment based on state standards; using appropriate instructional strategies, methods, and materials to fulfill teaching objectives; providing timely and accurate assessments of student progress; communicating progress in a positive manner; using appropriate classroom management techniques that promote a suitable learning environment; modeling to students and parents a belief in the equity of all students regardless of gender, religious preference, economic status or racial, ethnic, or linguistic background; assisting students in developing effective interpersonal skills and positive self-images; and meeting a wide range of professional responsibilities for self-growth and the development of the educational community.

Applicants selected for the special honor and responsibility of being named the SWSD and or California Teacher of the Year will be those who are judged best able to meet the varied situations, demands, and challenges they may confront.

Teachers Eligible for Consideration. The California Teachers of the Year Program is open to all teachers, public and private, from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Teachers of adults are also eligible to apply, if they are providing instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in elementary or secondary grades. Teachers who have some administrative responsibilities are eligible to apply; however, teaching must be their primary responsibility. The California Teachers of the Year Program actively encourages development of a pool of applicants that is fully representative of the diverse ethnic and cultural composition of our state's teaching force, as well as of its various geographical settings.

SOUTH WHITTIER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Human Resources



"Success for Every Student"

SWSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2019-2020

NOMINATION FORM

Deadline: April 8, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

(Form must be typed)

I nominate

First and Last Name	Position	Location
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as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year for the following reasons.

1. Professional Background: Degrees earned, credentials, and grade level experience.

2. Professional Development Training: Collaborates and willingly helps other teachers enhance and improve their skills through active involvement in staff trainings and meetings.

3. Classroom Instruction: Provides rigorous and differentiated instruction to deliver Common Core State Standards and meet the varying needs of students.

4. District/School Culture. Contributes to the improvement of the district and school culture.

5. School/Community Involvement: Participates in school, district, community activities and committees.

Nominator's Signature

Date

Person being nominated must be aware and complete a letter of introduction, please see "Nominee Letter of Introduction".

Submit nominations to Department of Human Resources by:

Deadline 4:30 p.m. on April 8, 2019

Applications are available through the school site secretary and on the District website.

SOUTH WHITTIER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Human Resources



"Success for Every Student"

SWSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR
2019-2020

Nominees Introductory Letter

Deadline: April 8, 4:30 p.m.
(Letter must be typed.)

Nominees must submit an introductory letter as described herein. Please attach to the nomination application form. It will help provide more information for the selection panel.

This letter should present a powerful statement about the applicant and his or her commitment to continued achievement for all students. It should explain what it is like to be a student in your class. Relate an inspirational vignette that illustrates an important aspect of education. Paint a clear picture that helps the reader to envision a typical day. Include a brief example of an ideal real day and a brief example of how you turned a challenging moment into a teachable moment.

Formal programs which recognize teachers are few at the county, state and national level. South Whittier School District supports this program enthusiastically. It has been an honor to have our teachers represented in this yearly competition. I strongly urge you to take this opportunity to nominate one of our many dedicated and talented teachers, TK/K through Grade 8.