

## 2025 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Application Guidelines

The 2025 Arkansas Teacher of the Year application is comprised of the sections below. Before accessing the online Google application, please prepare the required components. Applications will only be saved when submitted.

### **Section 1: Directions and Acknowledgements**

#### **Acknowledgement Question 1**

Have you been selected as your District Teacher of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year?

#### **Acknowledgement Question 2**

I am aware that this application must be received by the Arkansas Department of Education no later than noon on June 3, 2024, and that applications and supplemental documents received after that date and time will not be considered.

### **Section 2: General Information**

Candidate's Last Name

Candidate's First Name

Candidate's Preferred Name

Candidate's Home Address

Candidate's Personal E-mail Address

Candidate's Cell Phone Number

School Name

School Address

School Phone Number

School Email Address

Primary Subject Area(s) the Candidate Teaches

Grade Level(s) the Candidate Teaches

Total Years of Teaching Experience

Years in Current Position

School Profile: Urban, Suburban, and Rural

Public School Type: Traditional Public School, Public Charter School

Number of Students in Candidate's Building

Principal's Name

Principal's Email Address

Principal's Phone Number

School District Name

Number of Students in District

Superintendent's Name

Superintendent's Email Address

Superintendent's Phone Number

Candidate's Education Service Cooperative

Candidate's Twitter Profile

Candidate's Facebook Profile  
Candidate's Instagram Profile  
Candidate's Personal Blog Site  
Candidate's Personal Website  
Other Social Media Sites Candidate Uses  
Languages Candidate Speaks  
Candidates Professional Association Memberships  
Is the candidate a National Board Certified Teacher?

### **Section 3: Professional Biography and Resume**

**Professional Biography** in Third Person (maximum 250 words)

**Resume:**

The candidate's resume must include the following: Education, Certification, Experience, Leadership, Awards/Recognitions, Community Involvement, and Professional Organizations. The resume must be no more than two pages, have one-inch margins, and use a font of at least 10 points. Please name this file using the following designation: Candidate's Last Name, Resume. The resume will be uploaded into the online Google application.

### **Section 4: Response Questions**

1. Authentic student engagement is essential for fostering student learning and positive outcomes. Describe a lesson or unit that exemplifies your teaching style. How did you ensure that all students were engaged and influenced by the lesson? (maximum 500 words)
2. The importance of using data to understand student outcomes cannot be overstated. Please describe your approach to monitoring student learning in your classroom and how you utilize various types of data to support student growth. This may include formal or informal assessments, classroom observations, statewide assessments, and other relevant data sources. Provide up to three documents in PDF format, ensuring that all personally identifiable student data is redacted. (500 words)
3. Teacher leaders play a crucial role in shaping student outcomes and can extend their influence beyond their classrooms. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in that improved student learning. Discuss your role, how you involved others, and the current outcome of your efforts. (maximum 500 words)
4. LEARNS is a bold education reform that serves as a blueprint for education in Arkansas and prioritizes early childhood education, career readiness pathways, literacy, educator workforce development, school safety, and recognizing and rewarding effective teachers. Describe changes you made in your classroom or other actions taken as a result of LEARNS. Please describe how your efforts impacted student learning (maximum 500 words).
5. If selected as the 2025 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, you will serve as a spokesperson for Arkansas, the Arkansas Department of Education, and teachers. If selected, describe your proposed platform and how it will support key priorities of the LEARNS Act. What will you communicate to your profession and to the public? Please include a personal narrative that reveals why this platform is important to you (maximum 500 words).

## **Section 5: Video, Letters, Photo, and Forms**

**Video:** A video is an opportunity for candidates to showcase their passion for education. The video should be less than three minutes and follow the guidelines below. Points will be deducted for videos that exceed the three-minute time limit.

- The video should focus on your biggest impact on student learning.
- The video should not include additional participants or a presentation.
- Cameras such as digital cameras, camcorders, cell phones, etc. can be used to film the video. Please keep the following in mind.
  - Keep the camera stationary and focused on the teacher.
  - Film in landscape (horizontal) mode, not in vertical mode.
  - A high-quality video is preferred.
  - An external microphone enhances the audio quality but is not required.
  - Do not edit the video. The submission must be continuous and unedited. If your recording appears to have been edited, the entire application will not be scored.
- Upload the video to a personal Google Drive and provide a viewable and downloadable link in the Google application. The candidate may also work with the school and/or district's technology representative for assistance with recording.

**Letters:** Three letters of recommendation, no more than one page each, must be uploaded to the Google application. The letters should be directed to the National Teacher of the Year Program, as they will be used for the winner's national application. One letter of recommendation must be from the candidate's supervisor; the other letters may be from colleagues, former principals, parents, or civic or community leaders. Letters should provide specific examples of the candidate's contributions to his/her school and district. No more than three recommendation letters will be accepted. Please name these files as follows: Candidate's Last Name, Letter of Recommendation 1; Candidate's Last Name, Letter of Recommendation 2; and Candidate's Last Name, Letter of Recommendation 3. The three letters of recommendation will be uploaded into the online application.

**Photo:** A professional headshot of the candidate must be uploaded to the Google application and must be a JPEG file, 1000x1025 pixel minimum. Please name this file as follows: Candidate's Last Name, Headshot.

2025 Candidacy Approval Form (PDF form)

Photo Release Form (PDF form)

Note about follow-up email with W-9

Signature of Completion