2016 Selection Process

**District Level**

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools may establish their own processes for selecting Teacher of the Year nominees. See [Suggestions for Conducting the Teacher of the Year Contest](http://www.tasanet.org/Page/95). However, please note that**to be considered for regional and state recognition, candidates must**:

* be nominated by the superintendent of their district, or the district in which they taught during the 2014-15 school year
* provide all information requested on the [state application](http://www.tasanet.org/cms/lib07/TX01923126/Centricity/domain/59/2016/application.doc) form and answer all questions (however, districts may use their own applications or submitted materials in making their own selections)
* meet all [deadlines](http://www.tasanet.org/Page/90) and follow all [guidelines](http://www.tasanet.org/Page/92)

**Region Level**

All district nominees automatically advance to regional competition, which is coordinated by each [Regional Education Service Center.](http://www.tasanet.org/Page/98) A panel of judges in each region, composed primarily of members of various teacher associations, meets to evaluate the written applications and selects a Regional Elementary and a Regional Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Regional judging will take place in June-July 2015. When completed, regional coordinators should email the regional winners’ original applications and photos to TASA’s program coordinator by **5 p.m. August 5, 2015** (or sooner, if possible).

Forty regional winners (one elementary teacher and one secondary teacher for each Education Service Center) automatically become semifinalists in the Texas Teacher of the Year awards program.

**State Level**

State-level judging takes place at the TASA offices. Semifinalist judging will occur in August 2015. Two panels of judges (one for the elementary category and another for the secondary category) composed primarily of members of teacher associations will meet in Austin to review the 40 semifinalists’ applications and select three finalists for Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year and three finalists for Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. Finalists’ superintendents and Education Service Centers will be notified. TASA will distribute a news release announcing the six finalists on the first day of school. School districts are encouraged to do the same.

The final judging will occur in October 2015. The six finalists will be invited to Austin to be interviewed by a panel of judges, which is typically composed of representatives of educational administrator associations, a member of the State Board for Education Certification, a member of the State Board of Education, and the [most recent Texas Teachers of the Year](http://www.tasanet.org/Page/69). The panel will choose the two state winners and designate one to represent Texas in the [National Teacher of the Year](http://www.ccsso.org/ntoy.html) program. The winners will be announced at the Texas Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony on October 16, 2015.

The Texas Education Agency will submit Texas’ entry for the state’s nominee to the National Teacher of the Year program on behalf of the winner. The completed National Teacher of the Year packet is due to TASA for signature and submission to the national office on October 23, 2015. The National Teacher of the Year program, conducted by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, D.C., will announce four finalists in January 2016.