

21 N.J. teachers just got a huge honor. Here's the list.

- Updated: Aug. 11, 2023, 3:56 p.m. |
- Published: Aug. 11, 2023, 3:54 p.m.
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New Jersey this week announced the 21 educators recognized as the 2023-24 County Teachers of the Year.

The educators from each county will now network with colleagues across the state and serve as ambassadors for New Jersey's public schools during the upcoming school year.

They will also compete for the [annual state Teacher of The Year](#) award given in the fall. "Teachers have a profound and lasting impact on the growth of their students," said Angelica Allen-McMillian, the state's acting education commissioner, in a statement. "I trust these voices encourage even more dynamic individuals to enter the teacher workforce." A panel of educators will select the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year based on written applications, video submissions and interviews with the top finalists.

Here is the winner in each county and the position they held when they were nominated last school year.

Atlantic

Erin Sharpe, a science teacher at Cedar Creek High School in the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District

Bergen

Gary Whitehead, an English language arts teacher at Tenafly High School in the Tenafly School District

Burlington

Nicola Recla Fischer, a kindergarten teacher at Captain James Lawrence Elementary School in the Burlington City School District

Camden

Ron Smith, an environmental science teacher at Haddonfield Memorial High School in the Haddonfield School District

Cape May

Alison Curvan, a third grade teacher at Dennis Township Elementary School in the Dennis Township School District

Cumberland

Betsy Harrison, a music teacher at Cumberland Regional High School in the Cumberland Regional High School District

Essex

Shamshadeen Mayers, a social science teacher at Bloomfield High School in the Bloomfield School District

Gloucester

Phillip Neff, a science teacher at Paulsboro High School in the Paulsboro School District

Hudson

Jennifer Donnelly, a science teacher at Jose Marti STEM Academy in the Union City School District

Hunterdon

Gargi Adhikari, a special education teacher at Holland Brook School in the Readington Township School District

Mercer

Yulieth Le, a fourth grade teacher at Lawrence Intermediate School in the Lawrence Township Public Schools

Middlesex

Julie Mercier, an English language arts teacher at North Brunswick Township High School in the North Brunswick Township School District

Monmouth

Joseph Nappi, a social studies teacher at Monmouth Regional High School in the Monmouth Regional School District

Morris

Robin Meyh, health and physical education teacher at Mendham High School in the West Morris Regional School District

Ocean

Jaclyn Potochar, an English language arts and science teacher at Lake Riviera Middle School in the Brick Township School District

Passaic

Amanda Rhodes, a fifth grade teacher at School 11 in the Clifton School District

Salem

Andrea Wendell, a science teacher at Pittsgrove Township Middle School in the Pittsgrove Township School District

Somerset

Corinne Laurie, a health and physical education teacher at North Plainfield Middle School in the North Plainfield School District

Sussex

Tara Scrittore, a kindergarten teacher at Hamburg School in the Hamburg School District

Union

Kristen Hickman, a STEAM teacher at Roselle Park Middle School in the Roselle Park School District

Warren

Colleen Grzywacz, a vocal music teacher at Hackettstown Middle School in the Hackettstown School District

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