

## Eligibility Criteria

Any educators nominated for this award must meet all the following requirements:

- Be an exceptionally skilled and dedicated licensed classroom teacher (PreK through grade 12 in a public or charter school) where teaching is the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities or an educational services professional who is listed as one of the eligible enrollment areas
- Must have the latest summative rating of at least effective; if the teacher or the ESP has not received a summative rating at the time of application, then their most current practice rating should be at least effective or the equivalent
- Be an expert in the field who inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn
- Actively collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a strong culture of respect and success
- Demonstrate leadership and innovation in educational activities at the school, district and/or state and national levels that take place both within and outside the school setting
- Have the respect and administration of students, parents, and colleagues
- Have not earned the title of Teacher of the Year or ESP of the Year for the past five years
- Note: There is no requirement for minimum number of years in the classroom; please note that this is an award based on merit and leadership and not to be given out solely based on years of service, such as a retirement award

## Educational Services Professionals Enrollment Areas

To compete for Educational Services Professional (ESP) of the Year nominees must be classified as one of the following:

- Anti-Bullying Specialist
- Athletic Trainer
- Behavior Specialist
- Child Study Team
- Cooperative Education Coordinator/Hazardous Occupations
- Educational Interpreter (Cued Speech, Transliteration, Oral Interpreting, Sign Language Interpreting)
- Guidance / School Counselor
- Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
- Library Media Specialist
- Mathematics Specialist/Mathematics Coach
- Nurse (Instructional and Non-instructional)
- Occupational Therapist
- Paraprofessional (**Instructional**)
- Physical Therapist
- Psychologist
- Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach
- Social Worker
- Speech Language Specialist
- Student Assistant Coordinator
- Technology Coach