

# The Arkansas Department of Education

## Arkansas Teacher of the Year Position Description

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) program provides a great opportunity for an outstanding teacher to lead and serve, and to learn and grow.

The ATOY will:

- Be a highly qualified teacher in good standing with her/his district/employer.
- Serve as an ambassador for all Arkansas teachers and for the ADE calling positive attention to teaching as an honorable profession, urging students and others to consider teaching as their chosen profession. The ATOY works to elevate the teaching profession, assisting with ADE efforts toward the recruitment and retention of teachers. The ATOY also serves as an ambassador for the ATOY's own district.
- Promote the Arkansas Teacher of the Year Program statewide.
- Inspire and challenge colleagues through professional development sessions and keynote addresses.
- Act as a role model for innovation in education.
- Meet with ADE management staff to become familiar with the workings of the agency, learn government protocols, and learn about the current issues and messages of key leaders.
- Work-in-Residence with the ADE to: 1) create professional development programs for other teachers; 2) provide educational technical assistance to students and teachers statewide; 3) enhance the ATOY program; 4) enhance the quality of elementary and secondary education in Arkansas; and 5) represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) competition.
- Attend all State Board of Education meetings as a non-voting member representing Arkansas educators. The ATOY should provide the voice, opinion, and expertise of teachers as policy issues are being addressed at Board meetings. The ATOY will prepare and present a written advisory report to the State Board of Education on how to better provide teacher professional development and student instructional assistance for Arkansas public school teachers.
- Work closely with ADE staffers in developing and delivering quality professional development for Arkansas educators.
- Assist with policy development as requested by the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and members of the Arkansas General Assembly.

- Actively participate and serve on the annual ATOY press conference planning committee. The ATOY will have a public role at the news conference.
- Apply for the position of NTOY. The NTOY serves in an on-loan capacity at the national level, traveling around the world, speaking on behalf of the teaching profession.
- Respond to requests for providing professional development sessions in the following areas: pre-service and student teaching; curriculum issues (demonstrate promising practices); and areas of expertise and personal interest. The ATOY should prepare three to five standard presentations for use throughout the year. The ATOY should initiate contacts with local school districts, educational associations, parent groups, institutions of higher learning, and civic groups in every region of the state to offer assistance and/or participation in conferences and professional development sessions. The ATOY will also conduct speaking engagements, and serve on committees and task forces upon request.
- Prepare her/himself for interactions with the media; serve as a positive spokesperson on radio, television and with the print media.
- Submit travel vouchers on a regular basis and notify the ATOY Coordinator when ill.
- Unable to fulfill any public engagement, please contact first, second, or third runner up.

### **Resources for the ATOY:**

Current and Former On-Loan National Teachers of the Year

Network of Arkansas Education-Related contacts

### **Other Recognition Programs**

Milken Family Foundation Award

Presidential Awards in Teaching Math and Science

National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program

National Board Certification Program (NBCP)

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative

TeachArkansas

Troops to Teachers

Pathwise Training