### Opportunities

Every teacher nominated for Kansas Teacher of the Year will have the opportunity to become an active member of the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN).

Opportunities include:

- Serving as an advocate for students.
- Working with state policymakers, business and community leaders and others who shape public opinion to promote accurate perceptions of the realities of today’s classrooms.
- Using the teacher voice to help shape education policy at the local and state levels.
- Serving as a resource for the state’s college and university teacher education programs and working with those students considering or committed to entering the teaching profession.
- Serving on state advisory and selection committees and as conference and workshop presenters.
- Participating in professional development activities designed to provide exemplary educators with needed tools to become more effective leaders.

In addition, the finalists, semifinalists and nominees will have the opportunity to schedule, plan and participate in visits to each other’s school districts.

### Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18, 2019</td>
<td>Kansas State Department of Education posts 2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year nomination package on agency website</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1, 2019</td>
<td>Online application program for 2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year nomination opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
<td>Online application for 2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year nomination closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14-15, 2019</td>
<td>Nominees honored and regional semifinalists and finalists announced at regional recognition banquets</td>
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<td>Nov. 22-23, 2019</td>
<td>2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year Leadership Conference, Wichita</td>
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<td>Nov. 23, 2019</td>
<td>2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year State Awards Banquet, Wichita</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 27-29, 2020</td>
<td>2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team Leadership Conference and Legislative Recognition Day, Topeka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 13-14, 2020</td>
<td>KEEN State Education Conference, Topeka</td>
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### For More Information

For more information about the Kansas Teacher of the Year program, please contact:

Sherry Bukovatz or Denise Kahler  
Communications and Recognition Programs  
Kansas State Department of Education  
Landon State Office Building  
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212  
Phone: (785) 296-2551  
Email: sbukovatz@ksde.org  
Website: www.ksde.org

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The Mission

The Kansas Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, identifies, recognizes and utilizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state. The mission of the Kansas Teacher of the Year program is ...

to build and utilize a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in the improvement of schools, student performance and the teaching profession.

Candidate Qualifications

Each school district may nominate one elementary classroom teacher and one secondary classroom teacher for Kansas Teacher of the Year. The nominee must be a full-time classroom teacher in any state-approved or accredited school, prekindergarten through grade twelve, who is planning to continue in an active teaching status.

By the end of the current school year, the teacher must have completed a minimum of five years as a classroom teacher.

The nominee has the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues.

The nominee:
- Is an expert in his/her field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Collaborates with colleagues, students and families to create a school culture of respect and success.
- Deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
- Expresses himself/herself in an engaging and articulate way.

The nominee must be committed to serving as a leader in efforts to improve schools, student performance and the teaching profession in Kansas.

Selection Process

The Kansas Teacher of the Year program consists of local, regional and state competition. The regions correspond to the state’s four U.S. congressional districts.

The Kansas State Department of Education appoints regional selection committees responsible for reviewing the nomination forms and selecting three elementary teachers and three secondary teachers designated as semifinalists. Two regional finalists, one elementary teacher and one secondary teacher, are chosen from among these six teachers. Regional selection committees are comprised of education administrators and teachers.

The Kansas State Department of Education appoints a state selection committee to select the Kansas Teacher of the Year from among the eight finalists. Selection committee members independently review and evaluate the written nomination forms and videotaped interviews of the finalists. The state selection committee is comprised of approximately 50 individuals representing business and industry, legislators, boards of education, education administrators, teachers, higher education institutions, education organizations, parents and students.

Recognition and Awards

REGIONAL

Nominees are honored at recognition ceremonies in each region, at which they receive a certificate signed by the Commissioner of Education and a gift to commemorate the occasion. Each regional semifinalist receives a commemorative apple donated by The Master Teacher in Manhattan. Each regional finalist receives a $2,000 cash award from Security Benefit in Topeka.

STATE

The Kansas Teacher of the Year State Awards Banquet individually recognizes each of the finalists. Nominees are recognized as a group. The celebration culminates in the announcement of the Kansas Teacher of the Year.

The Kansas Teacher of the Year:
- Is awarded a lifelong learning scholarship, enabling the recipient to enroll free of charge in up to nine credit hours per year at any Kansas Regents’ institution, Washburn University, Baker University, Bethany College, Kansas Wesleyan University, MidAmerica Nazarene University, University of Saint Mary, Tabor College or Webster University-Kansas City, provided the individual is actively pursuing a teaching career in Kansas.
- Is awarded The Hubbard Foundation Kansas Teacher of the Year Ambassadorship, enabling the Kansas Teacher of the Year to devote significant time during the second semester (Jan. – May) to activities that support the mission of the Kansas Teacher of the Year program.
- Receives a cash award in the amount of $4,000 from Security Benefit.
- Receives an automobile from Enterprise Rent-a-Car for use during the ambassadorship.
- Receives a Leader in Education ring from Jostens, Inc.

KANSAS Teacher of the Year