

Program Mission

The mission of the Montana Teacher of the Year Program is to elevate student success by empowering classroom innovation and enhancing pathways to teacher leadership.

A⁺ The TOY Program elevates **student success** by celebrating teachers who honor individual student strengths and each child's unique abilities.

A⁺ The TOY Program empowers **classroom innovation** by recognizing teachers who are responsive to the complex realities that define Montana's diverse and unique classrooms across the state.

A⁺ The TOY Program enhances **pathways to teacher leadership** by creating teacher ambassadors at the local, state, and national level to connect classrooms to the community.

Message from the Superintendent

It is my honor to serve our communities, families, and most of all, our students as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction. I have positive determination and a fresh approach to problem-solving that has served me well, both as a public school teacher for 23 years and as a state legislator for 12 years. My commitment to improving opportunities for students comes from a fourth generation Montana work ethic instilled in me by my parents, who were both longtime public school teachers in Billings. Thank you for partnering with us to put Montana students first.

Together, we will make Montana proud!



Elsie Arntzen
State Superintendent



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Putting Montana Students First **A⁺**



Supporting and celebrating the educational excellence that makes a difference in the lives of Montana students

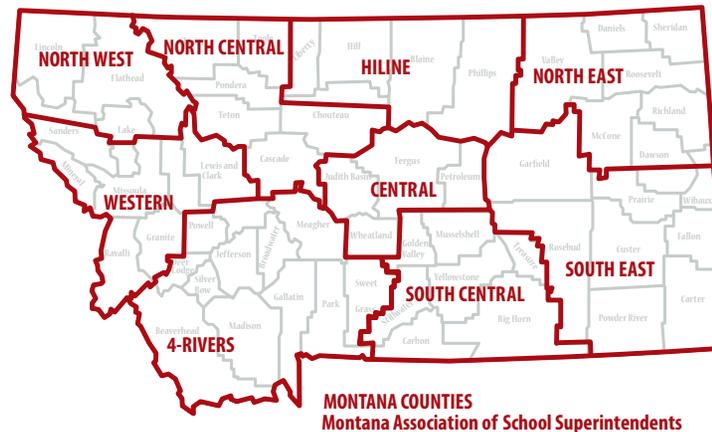


Timeline and Region Map

Feb 1	Applications and nominations open
May 1	Nomination closing date
June 1	Application closing date
July 15	Regional selection deadline
Early-Sept	The State Superintendent will travel the state for local school celebrations with the ten regional winners.
Mid- Sept	A committee will review the ten regional TOY selections and identify three individuals to interview as statewide semi-finalists.
Early-Oct	OPI will have a different team interview the three finalists in-person.
Mid-Oct	Announcement of the Montana Teacher of the Year—Celebration at the Capitol
Nov 1	Montana Teacher of the Year application is forwarded to CCSSO
Late-Jan	National Teacher of the Year convening

Honoring Montana's Teachers

- Supporting and celebrating the educational excellence that makes a difference in the lives of Montana students
- Providing regional, statewide, and national opportunities to share best practices and innovative teaching strategies
- Rewarding individual teachers who are going above and beyond to serve students in their communities
- Enhancing the teaching profession by offering pathways to teacher leadership
- Connecting to an extensive alumni group network for continuous improvement and support



Putting Montana Students First **A+**

About the MT TOY Program

Anyone can nominate a teacher! Just visit the website and fill out a nomination form: <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Montana-Teacher-of-the-Year>

The Montana Teacher of the Year is chosen from a group of ten regional teachers of the year. These ten teachers are selected by committees from each of the nine Montana Association of School Superintendent regions along with an American Indian educator chosen by the Montana Indian Education Association to ensure geographic and cultural diversity.

Those ten teachers will be reviewed by a statewide committee of diverse education and community stakeholders to narrow the pool to three semi-finalists who will be invited to interview in-person. The TOY will be announced during a celebration ceremony at the Montana Capitol each October.

The Montana TOY will then compete to become the National TOY. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ccsso.org/national-teacher-of-the-year>.

All active Montana K-12 teachers who are making a positive difference for students in their community are encouraged to apply. Anyone can also nominate a teacher.