

New Jersey State Teacher of the Year Program  
Eligibility Criteria

**THE CANDIDATE MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Be a licensed, highly-qualified (if applicable) classroom teacher (pre-K through grade 12) in a public or charter school;
- Have teaching as the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities;
- Be a dedicated and skilled teacher leader who is **planning to actively continue his/her teaching career;**
- Demonstrate strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning and the learning environment;
- Possess strong content area expertise and be able to deliver content in a meaningful and engaging manner that is age appropriate;
- Incorporate innovative instructional materials, curriculum or strategies, such as interdisciplinary instruction, project-based learning, research-based programs, or technology to support and enhance instruction;
- **Demonstrate leadership** in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level that take place both within or out of the school setting;
- Show evidence of ongoing professional learning through completion of specific training and/or advanced degrees;
- Display exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with students, parents, administrators, community members and professional colleagues;
- Participate in peer coaching and mentoring activities;
- Utilize research techniques in the classroom to improve the teaching and learning process;
- Engage parents/families as partners in the learning process to enhance student achievement;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect conducive to effective teaching and learning; and
- Demonstrate poise, eloquence and the ability to maintain a demanding schedule.