



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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July 15, 2021

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12 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists Named

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce the 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists. The 12 regional finalists will be recognized at an event August 5 at the Governor’s Mansion. During the event, the four state semi-finalists will be announced.

“After such a challenging school year, it is my honor to recognize some of the best teachers around the state,” ADE Secretary Johnny Key said. “The 2020-2021 school year was unprecedented; however, Arkansas’ teachers rose to the occasion. Unlike many other states, schools in Arkansas were open throughout the entire school year. It is because of dedicated teachers, like those recognized today, that our students didn’t miss a day of learning. Congratulations to the regional finalists, and thank you for leading by example both in and out of the classroom.”

The regional finalists listed below each will receive a certificate and a \$1,000 prize provided by the Walton Family Foundation.

Brigette Biley-Olatunji

Math, Grades 9-12

Arkansas High School

Texarkana Arkansas School District

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative

Rozanna Brown

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Grade 4

Ballman Elementary School

Fort Smith School District

Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative

Allison Dolan

Social Studies, Grades 9-12

Don Tyson School of Innovation

Springdale School District

Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Amy Farmer

Math, Grades 9-10

Academies of West Memphis

West Memphis School District
Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative

Jil'Lana Heard

Library Media Specialist, Grades 10-12
Lake Hamilton High School
Lake Hamilton School District
Dawson Education Service Cooperative

Shanon Hum

AVID College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Grades 6-8
Sylvan Hills Middle School
Pulaski County Special School District
Pulaski County

Vickie Lewis

English, Math, Reading, Science, & Social Studies, Grades 6-8
NewStart Academy ALE
Wynne School District
Crowley's Ridge Educational Service Cooperative

Amy Privett

Special Education, Grades 5-6
Walnut Ridge Middle School
Lawrence County School District
Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative

Kaitlyn Ryals

Math, Grade 6
Bob and Betty Courtway Middle School
Conway School District
Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative

Jessica Saum

Special Education, Grades K-4
Stagecoach Elementary School
Cabot School District
Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative

Jessica Talley

Technology, Grades K-2
East Side Elementary School
Magnolia School District
South Central Service Cooperative

Angela Walters

Gifted Education, Grades K-5
East End Intermediate School
Sheridan School District
Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year program is part of the National Teacher of the Year program, which recognizes teachers for their teaching and leadership skills. The four state semi-finalists that will be announced on August 5 will be selected from among the 12 regional finalists. One of the four state semi-finalists will be named the 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year this fall and will apply to become the 2022 National Teacher of the Year. Some State Board of Education members may attend the August 5 event at the Governor's Mansion, but no official business will be conducted.

To learn more about the ATOY program, visit <https://bit.ly/3hJwC0g>.

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