



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

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13 Educators Named Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce the 13 educators who are named 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists. The regional finalists will be recognized at an event August 4 at the Governor’s Mansion. At that time, the four state semi-finalists will be announced.

“It is my privilege to announce the Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists,” ADE Secretary Johnny Key said. “These educators represent the best in the teaching profession at their local schools and have demonstrated a commitment to the teaching profession. Congratulations on achieving this honor and recognition!”

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

Jessica Bilbo

Library Media, Grades K-5

Harmony Leadership Academy

Texarkana Arkansas School District

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative

Angela Brady

Math, Grade 6

Walnut Ridge Middle School
Lawrence County School District
Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative

Teresa Cantrell

Music, Grades K-2
Wynne Primary School
Wynne School District
Crowley's Ridge Educational Service Cooperative

Lisa Jensen

Second Grade
Alma Primary School
Alma School District
Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative

Amber Leaton

Social Studies, Grades 11 & 12
Bryant High School
Bryant Public Schools
Dawson Education Service Cooperative

Stephanie Long

Third Grade
Walter Turnbow Elementary School
Springdale Public Schools
Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Kara McGee

Second Grade
Mabelvale Elementary School
Little Rock School District
Pulaski County

Cheryl Ring

Family and Consumer Science, Grades 10-12
Academies of West Memphis

West Memphis School District
Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative

Sarah Sabbatini

Dyslexia Interventionist/Library Media, Grades 1-5
Portland Elementary School
Hamburg School District
Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Capri Salaam

Social Studies, Grades 7 & 8
North Little Rock Middle School 7th/8th Grade Campus
North Little Rock School District
Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative

Elouise Shorter

Math, Grades 9-12
Dollarway High School
Pine Bluff School District
Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative

Sarah Story

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

Allan West

Gifted and Talented, Grades K-4
Central Elementary School
Cabot Public Schools
Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year program is part of the National Teacher of the Year program and recognizes teachers for their outstanding teaching and leadership skills. The four state semi-finalists that will be announced in August will be selected from among the 13 regional finalists. One of the four state semi-finalists will be named the 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year this fall and will apply to become the 2023 National Teacher of the Year.

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

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