



2009 Application Form
Due: August 15, 2008

Colorado Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by the



Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203
www.cde.state.co.us/index_awards.htm

In association with the National Teacher of the Year Program
sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and ING Foundation.

Colorado State Board of Education

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Issued By:
Barbara Lautenbach
Colorado Department of Education
303/866-6932
lautenbach_b@cde.state.co.us

Colorado Department of Education Organizational Commitment

The Colorado Department of Education dedicates itself to increasing achievement levels for all students through comprehensive programs of education reform involving three interlocking elements: 1) high standards for what students must know and be able to do; 2) challenging assessments that honestly measure whether or not students meet standards and tell citizens the truth about how well our schools serve children; and 3) rigorous accountability measures that tie the accreditation of school districts to high student achievement.

The Colorado Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, political affiliation, organizational membership, veteran's status, disability in access to, employment in, or in the provision of any of CDE's programs, benefits or activities.

2009 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION FORM

I. General Information/Signatures

Nominee's Name _____

Home Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

Social Security # _____ - _____ - _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Electronic Mail Address _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

School Profile (check one): Urban Suburban Rural

Number of Students in Nominee's: District _____ Building _____

Major Subject Area (if any) _____ Grade Level _____

Total Years of Teaching Experience _____ Years in Present Position _____

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address, telephone, SS# and DOB) may be shared with persons interested in promoting the National Teacher of the Year Program. I also acknowledge that if selected as the 2009 National Teacher of the Year, I will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of my recognition in order to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor.

Signature of Candidate _____ Date _____

(Section I. continued - General Information/Signatures)

SCHOOL/BUILDING PRINCIPAL

Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the 2009 National Teacher of the Year, he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

Signature of School Principal _____ Date _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Name _____ Title _____

District Name/Address _____

City State Zip Code Telephone

I acknowledge that the nominee submits this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the 2009 National Teacher of the Year he or she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of recognition.

Signature of District Superintendent _____ Date _____

STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Name Barbara L. Lautenbach Title Teacher of the Year Coordinator

Agency Colorado Department of Education

Address 201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 201

Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 866-6932
City State Zip Code Telephone

Coordinator Signature _____ Date _____

Instructions for Essay Responses -

Complete Sections II – X using the attached evaluation rubric to establish expectations for performance. **Note: Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.**

Section II. Educational History and Professional Development Activities – (two (2) double-spaced pages) (pages 3 & 4) **(10 points)**

- A. Beginning with most recent, **list** colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
- B. Beginning with most recent, **list** teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level and subject area.
- C. Beginning with most recent, **list** professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
- D. Beginning with most recent, **list** staff development leadership activity and leadership activity in the training of future teachers.
- E. Beginning with the most recent, **list** awards and other recognition of your teaching.

Section III. Professional Biography - (two (2) double-spaced pages) (pages 5 & 6) **(10 points)**

- A. What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

Section IV. Community Involvement - (one (1) double-spaced page) (page 7) **(10 points)**

- A. Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities such as volunteer work, civic responsibilities and other group activities.

Section V. Philosophy of Teaching - (two (2) double-spaced pages) (pages 8 & 9) **(15 points)**

- A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.
- B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

Section VI. Education Issues and Trends - (two (2) double-spaced pages) (pages 10 & 11) **(10 points)**

- A. What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address **one** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.

Section VII. The Teaching Profession - (two (2) double-spaced pages) (pages 12 & 13) **(15 points)**

- A. What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?
- B. What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?

Section VIII. National Teacher of the Year - (one (1) double-spaced page)

(page 14)

(10 points)

- A. As the 2009 National Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession. What would be your message? What would you communicate to your profession and to the general public?

Section IX. Educational Reform – (two (2) double-spaced pages)

(pages 15 & 16)

(15 points)

- A. Education reform in Colorado involves three interlocking elements: high standards, challenging assessments, and rigorous accountability measures. Provide evidence that your teaching addresses these three interlocking elements.

Section X. Letters of Support - (limit of three (3) letters, **EACH A MAXIMUM OF ONE PAGE**)

(5 points)

- A. Include **three** letters of support (**each a MAXIMUM of ONE page**) from any of the following: superintendent, administrator, colleague, student/former student, parent, or civic leader.

Letters should be addressed to: Teacher of the Year Selection Committee

Section XI. Publicity Photograph

- A. Include with the application package two photographs suitable for publicity purposes. A five-inch by seven-inch head shot in color is preferred (please send pictures that are on photographic paper). Clearly print your full name and school on the back of each photograph. (You may send two copies of the same photograph.)

Introduction

History/Background

The Colorado Teacher of the Year Program is our state's oldest and most prestigious honors program which recognizes the contributions of the classroom teacher.

Duties/Responsibilities

Being named Colorado Teacher of the Year is not an award—but an honor—that comes with an enormous responsibility: that of representing the entire profession in Colorado. He or she acts as:

- a liaison between the teaching community and the legislature, the Department of Education, districts and communities;
- an education ambassador to businesses, parents, service organizations, and media;
- a resource on the state of the profession to be available for workshops and conferences around the state; and
- an education leader involved in teacher forums and education reform.

The Colorado Teacher of the Year is also expected to attend national events such as International Space Camp, the National Teachers' Forum, and the National Teacher of the Year Ceremony. In addition, he or she attends education meetings, conferences and workshops around the state.

Many organizations and companies support the program by donating cash awards, merchandise, and gift certificates to the Teacher of the Year and finalists.

Since the Teacher of the Year will be requested to attend many events and make

speeches during the year, he or she must be poised, articulate, and have the energy to make and withstand a busy schedule.

Colorado's Teacher of the Year automatically becomes our nominee for the National Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and ING Foundation.

“As much learning as possible should take place through student explorations, reports, group work, projects and problem sets, but a good introductory lecture is often the best way to launch any of these assignments. An effective introduction should set the stage and create anticipation for the discoveries the class is about to make.”

Seth Berg

2008 Colorado Teacher of the Year

2009 Colorado Teacher of the Year Program Guidelines

The nominee must be an exceptionally skilled, dedicated, and knowledgeable classroom teacher in a state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who plans to continue an active teaching career. (Supervisory and administrative responsibilities should be of secondary consideration.) The teacher must:

- inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school;
- be poised, articulate, and have the energy to withstand a busy schedule; and
- demonstrate high levels of academic achievement for his/her students.

While serving as Colorado Teacher of the Year, the teacher must maintain his/her current employment position. If the Colorado Teacher of the Year is selected as the **2009 National Teacher of the Year**, he/she will be released from classroom responsibilities during the year of national recognition.

Selection Process

CDE conducts a rigorous selection procedure to validate the candidate's abilities in the classroom and to discern the candidate's communication style in delivering his or her message to a broad audience. A Selection Committee, comprised of representatives of education organizations, conducts a phased selection process:

Phase I: Application. Each candidate will submit a written application containing biographical and professional information, eight essays on topics ranging from personal teaching philosophy to the issues facing education, and letters of endorsement. Applications will be initially screened by the Colorado Department of Education staff for completeness and compliance with application requirements.

Phase II: Review. Copies of each application will then be reviewed by an independent Selection Committee using the attached evaluation rubric. Eighty or more points are required to be considered for the interview. Candidates will be notified of the status of their application at this point. (Tentatively September 2008)

Phase III: Interview. Candidates will be interviewed by the Selection Committee in Denver. (Tentatively early September 2008)

Phase IV: Visitations. Semi-finalists will be named and will be visited/observed in their classrooms by members of the Selection Committee. (Tentatively September 2008)

Phase V: Announcement. The **2009 Colorado Teacher of the Year** will be announced at the award ceremony in October 2008. Finalists will be invited and will be able to ask family members and friends to accompany them. Members of the Colorado State Board of Education, Colorado General Assembly, and Colorado Teacher of the Year Selection committee will also be attending the award ceremony.

Application Requirements

1. **Deadline: Applications must be received by Friday, August 15, 2008 at 4 p.m. No FAX or E-mail applications will be accepted.** Mail to: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Teacher of the Year Program, Attention: Barbara Lautenbach, 201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 201, Denver, Colorado 80203-1799

2. **Application Format:**

Section I:	General Information/Signatures (pages 1 & 2) Must use form provided.
Section II:	Educational History and Professional Development Activities (pages 3 & 4)
Section III:	Professional Accomplishments (pages 5 & 6)
Section IV:	Community Involvement (page 7)
Section V:	Philosophy of Teaching (pages 8 & 9)
Section VI:	Education Issues and Trends (pages 10 & 11)
Section VII:	The Teaching Profession (pages 12 & 13)
Section VIII:	National Teacher of the Year (page 14)
Section IX:	Educational Reform (pages 15 & 16)
Section X:	Letters of Support (do not number pages)

For sections requiring two pages of text, please provide header, e.g., Section III continued – Professional Accomplishments

- Number the sections and pages, except for Letters of Support. (Staple the letters to back of nomination packet.)
 - Limit answers to the number of pages requested in each question.
 - Double-space all essay responses. **Answers should be grammatically correct.** Do not use type/font size smaller than 10 point. Use standard margins of 1/2".
 - Staple application forms in the upper left-hand corner. Do not place pages in plastic page holders, folders, notebooks, or scrapbooks.
- Include two 5 x 7 color photographs suitable for publicity purposes.
 - Remember, submit only the materials requested (application form and photographs). Entries with additional materials will be automatically disqualified.
 - Submit the original application and ten photocopies, including letters of support for each set.

2009 Colorado Teacher of the Year Evaluation Rubric

Proposal # _____

Reviewer: _____

OVERALL SCORING: _____/100 POINTS

Expectation: 80 points or higher to qualify for interview.

Section II: Educational History and Professional Development Activities (2 pages) (10 points)

Score _____

- A. Beginning with most recent, list colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
- B. Beginning with most recent, list teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level and subject area.
- C. Beginning with most recent, list professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
- D. Beginning with most recent, list staff development leadership activity and leadership activity in the training of future teachers.
- E. Beginning with the most recent, list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

0-2	3-6	7-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to establish sufficient educational history and record of professional development experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides description of educational history and professional development activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear evidence of educational history and professional development activities supporting consideration for award.

Comments:

Section III. Professional Accomplishments (2 pages) (10 points)

Score _____

- A. What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

0-2	3-6	7-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides little evidence of impact on student achievement and connections to content standards, CSAP, or other accreditation indicators. • Fails to delineate contributions and accomplishments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses how teaching has impacted academic achievement of students and shows some connection to content standards, CSAP, or other accreditation indicators. • Provides some evidence of contributions and accomplishments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear evidence that applicant's teaching has resulted in high levels of academic achievement and includes evidence that relates to content standards, CSAP, and/or other accreditation indicators. • Delineates significant contributions and accomplishments.

Comments:

Section IV. Community Involvement (1 page) (10 points)

Score _____

A. Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities such as volunteer work, civic responsibilities and other group activities.

0-2	3-6	7-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides little evidence of community involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses commitment to community through service-oriented activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides clear evidence of community involvement beyond school related activities.

Comments:

Section V. Philosophy of Teaching (2 pages) (15 points)

Score _____

A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.

B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

0-4	5-9	10-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to address philosophy of teaching and rewards. Fails to indicate how beliefs are demonstrated in teaching style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses beliefs and feelings concerning teaching and indicates rewards of teaching and evidence of outstanding qualities. Indicates how philosophy of teaching is demonstrated in teaching style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides clear description of teaching philosophy and includes evidence of outstanding teacher qualities. Clearly indicates how beliefs are demonstrated in teaching style.

Comments:

Section VI. Education Issues and Trends (2 pages) (10 points)

Score _____

A. What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address **one** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.

0-2	3-6	7-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines major education issues but lacks detail. Fails to address one issue in depth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses major education issues. Addresses one issue in some depth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifies major education issues. Addresses one issue in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions. Shows clear understanding of major issues.

Comments:

Section VII. The Teaching Profession (2 pages) (15 points)

Score _____

- A. What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?
- B. What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?

0-4	5-9	10-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fails to provide evidence of strengthening and improving the teaching profession.• Fails to indicate the basis for accountability in the teaching profession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides evidence of strengthening and improving the teaching profession.• Indicates the basis for accountability in the teaching profession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides strong evidence of strengthening and improving the teaching profession.• Indicates clear understanding of the basis for accountability in the teaching profession.

Comments:

Section VIII. National Teacher of the Year (1 page) (10 points)

Score _____

- A. As the 2009 National Teacher of the Year, you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession. What would be your message? What would you communicate to your profession and to the general public?

0-2	3-6	7-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fails to address relevant issues for the teaching profession.• Message is vague or unclear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addresses some relevant issues for the teaching profession.• Message is understandable to the profession/general public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Message is timely and of importance to the profession and the general public.• Message is presented in a coherent and convincing manner.

Comments:

Section IX. Educational Reform (2 pages) (15 points)

Score_____

A. Education reform in Colorado involves three interlocking elements: high standards, challenging assessments, and rigorous accountability measures. Provide evidence that your teaching addresses these three interlocking elements.

0-4	5-9	10-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks evidence of standard-based classroom practices. Does not provide evidence of challenging assessments. Fails to demonstrate accountability in reporting to students, parents, and community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates high standards in classroom practices. Demonstrates use of challenging assessments to measure whether or not students meet standards. Provides sufficient accountability measures in reporting results to student, parents, and community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly demonstrates high standards in classroom practices. Clearly incorporates challenging assessments to measure whether or not students meet standards. Demonstrates rigorous accountability measures in reporting results to students, parents, and community.

Comments:

Section X. Letters of Support (3 letters) (5 points)

Score_____

A. Include **three** letters of support from any of the following: superintendent, administrator, colleague, student/former student, parent, or civic leader.

0-1	2-3	4-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to include sufficient information across the three references to support applicant's consideration of award. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information across the three references generally supports applicant's consideration of award. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters provide convincing evidence to support applicant's consideration of award.

Comments:

General Comments or Evidence Supporting Evaluation:

2009 Colorado Teacher of the Year

Application Checklist

(Please use as a reference; do not include with the application.)

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Does your application package include: | | |
| a) One original and ten copies of the application? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Three letters of recommendation? (one from your principal) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Two 5 x 7 color photographs suitable for publicity purposes? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (Headshot only on photographic paper, no Polaroid pictures . Print your name and school on the back of each photograph.) | | |
| d) Signatures from you, your principal and superintendent on pages 1 and 2? (Please type Section I.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Have you answered all questions in the number of pages specified? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Has someone else proofread your application for clarity, grammar, spelling, and typos? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Did you double-space all of your responses and use ½" margins? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is the type/font easy to read and no smaller than 10 point? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

In order to provide all applicants with an equal opportunity only the number of pages requested with each question will be accepted.

Application deadline is August 15, 2008 at 4 p.m.

Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Teacher of the Year Program
Attention: Barbara Lautenbach
201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 201
Denver, CO 80203-1799
303/866-6932

