

CHARTER INSTITUTE AT ERSKINE

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ER OF THE YEAR

AWARDS BANQUET GUIDELINES

ROLE OF THE INSTITUTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Charter Institute at Erskine Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador for the Institute as well as all schools and students within the Institute. The Teacher of the Year will serve for one school year and is a leader and role model for all Institute teachers.

- The Charter Institute at Erskine (Institute) Teacher of the Year (TOY) is a classroom teacher in a public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, middle, or secondary school with a professional certificate. This includes all subject area teachers, vocational teachers, school librarians, school counselors, curriculum resource teachers, teacher specialists, speech-language pathologists, and lead teachers who are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Active teaching status means that the teacher is planning to continue teaching (e.g. not retiring or moving into an administrative position the following year).
- The TOY is a continuing-contract teacher and has direct contact with students a minimum of three hours a day, on average, and must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate.
 - Schools may nominate uncertified TOYs for Institute recognition with the understanding that they will not be selected as Institute TOY as they are not eligible to compete at the state level.
- The TOY collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a culture of respect and success.
- The TOY may work with the Institute throughout the year on special projects or professional development to promote and develop great teachers and the charter schools they serve.
- The TOY will attend the CERRA State Teacher of the Year Forum Conference, which is usually held in November, and return to share the experience with all teachers in the Institute schools.
- The TOY agrees to complete the State TOY application process as the Institute's TOY and may consult previous TOYs for input and suggestions for their application.
- The TOY will serve as a judge for the next year's Institute TOY and present the award to the new TOY.

2018-2019 Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Anne Brown
Royal Live Oaks Academy



TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTION PROCESS

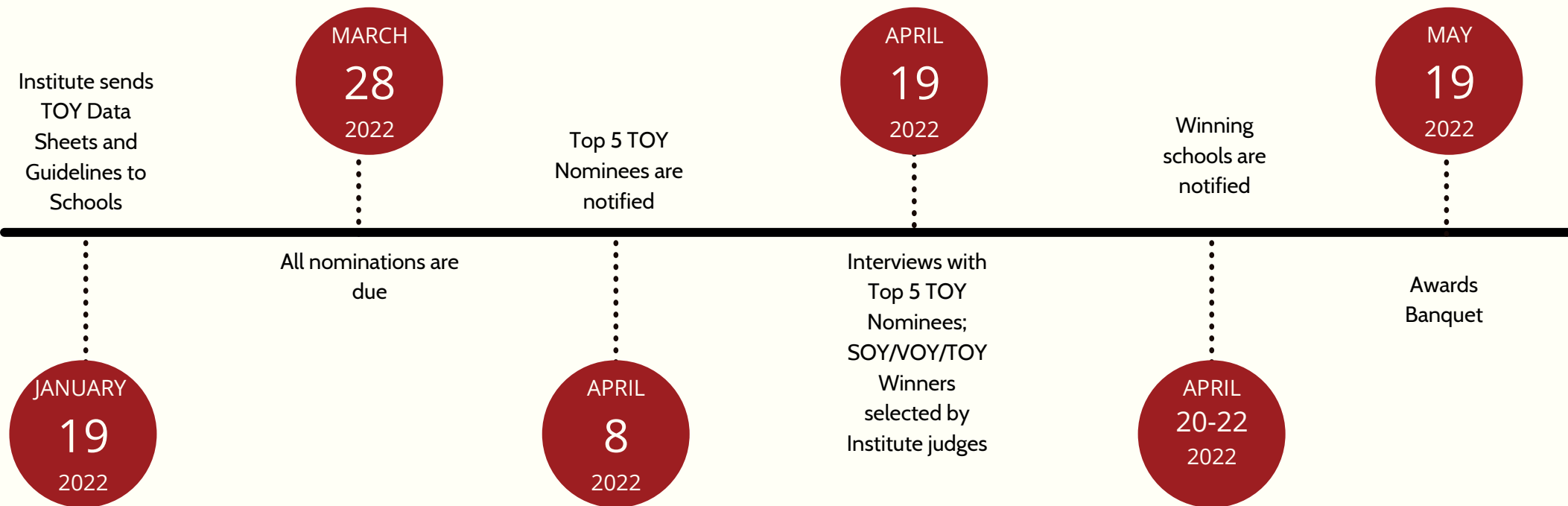
- Notices are sent to schools early each calendar year regarding the Teacher of the Year application timeline.
- The schools submit their TOY data sheets and the teachers' completed portfolios in mid-March. Schools with more than one grade span may submit one teacher in each category: Elementary, Middle, and High. Schools may nominate uncertified TOYs for Institute recognition with the understanding that they will not be selected as Institute TOY as they are not eligible to compete at the state level.
- All identifying information is redacted from the portfolios and each portfolio is assigned a number to maintain confidentiality and avoid partiality.
- The portfolios are then emailed to the judges along with score sheets.
- The judges have a week to review the portfolios and submit the score sheets.
- The top five teachers with the highest scores will be notified and must then undergo a face-to-face interview with the judges.
- Each of the top five teachers will be asked the same questions during their interview. Please note - teachers who are not eligible for the State TOY Competition or indicate that they will not proceed with the State Teacher of the Year selection process if selected will not be considered for Institute Teacher of the Year.
- The judges will score the interviews and privately discuss the interviews and choose the winner.
- The winner will be announced and will serve as the Institute TOY for the following school year.

See the next page for this year's timeline.

**2020-2021 Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Katie Bell -
Lowcountry Leadership Charter
School**



INSTITUTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROCESS TIMELINE



TEACHER OF THE YEAR INTERVIEW FORMAT

- The top five finalists, along with their school leaders, will be notified and an interview schedule sent to them.
- Each of the five teachers will come to the Institute office to be interviewed by a panel of judges.
- Each one will have a specific amount of time for the interview, where they will introduce themselves and give an overview of their educational philosophy and perspectives.
- The judges will ask each finalist the same questions and give a score for each one.
- After all interviews are held, the judges' scores will be tallied and an Institute Teacher of the Year chosen.
- This teacher will serve as the Institute Teacher of the Year during the following school year.
- The Institute Teacher of the Year will be a secret until the announcement or Awards Banquet.

Contact Ashley Epperson at aeperson@erskinecharters.org or (803) 995-0527.

Ms. Julie Phillips of SCVCS is awarded Teacher of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year.



STATE TOY SELECTION PROCESS

The South Carolina guidelines and eligibility requirements closely mirror those of the Institute. The application and selection process, however, is very different and more stringent. The teacher chosen as the Institute Teacher of the Year must be willing to complete the South Carolina application and go through the selection process. Below are the application and selection process for the State Teacher of the Year.

The South Carolina Teacher of the Year application process mirrors that of the National Teacher of the Year. The SCDE provides application guidelines that districts must be used when submitting a nominee to the state program.

Steps in the Application Process

- By mid-October, districts submit the name of their District Teacher of the Year (DTOY) to the state's program coordinator.
- The State Teacher of the Year (STOY) application is shared with all DTOY and district coordinators for preparation purposes ahead of submission. Submissions are accepted from mid-November to early January.
- The selection process begins. The selection of the STOY is the combined responsibility of three groups: the Screening Committee, the Finalists Committee, and the Selection Committee.
- The STOY and the four Honor Roll teachers are selected.
- The STOY, Honor Roll teachers, and all DTOY are honored at a celebratory event in Columbia in the spring. Pursuant to Section 59-26-90 of the SC Code of Laws, the STOY receives a \$25,000 award, each Honor Roll teacher receives \$10,000, and all other DTOY receive a \$1,000 award. Each honoree also receives citations and appropriate commendations from the State Superintendent of Education and State Board of Education.
- The State Superintendent of Education enters the name of the STOY in the National Program in the fall. The Teacher of the Year coordinator facilitates the STOY application to the national title and organizes the STOY participation in all the national events.

Phase One: The Initial Screening

The Screening Committee is composed of four sets of judges, and each group includes teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, SC business representatives, community leaders and SCDE staff members. Each set of judges reviews and scores up to twenty-one applications.

Applications are identified only by numbers; all references to the applicant's name, gender, ethnicity, and school district are redacted - to the extent that all meaning is preserved - prior to distribution to the judges. Each applicant may earn a 100-point maximum using the point system described below. After totals from all judges in each set are tallied, the Teacher of the Year coordinator will send copies of the twenty-five highest scoring applications to members of the Finalists Committee.

STATE TOY SELECTION PROCESS

Phase Two: Finalists Selection

The Finalists Committee is composed of at least five judges from the following or related categories:

- Former State Teacher of the Year – who served at least four years prior to date of judging
- School or district leader representative
- Civic representative
- Business representative
- State Board of Education Member

Using the same scoring system employed in Phase One, members of the Finalists Committee review and rate each application to select the five finalists for STOY. Applications are identified only by numbers; all references to the applicant's name, gender, ethnicity, and school district are redacted - to the extent that all meaning is preserved - prior to distribution to the judges. When totals are tallied, the State Superintendent of Education notifies the five candidates with the highest scores of their selection as finalists.

Application Point System

- Content Lesson or Unit (20 points)
- School Culture (20 points)
- Community Involvement (20 points)
- Public Education Issue (20 points)
- State Teacher of the Year (20 points)

In the case of a tie between candidates, tiebreaker categories (in order of importance) are 1. Content Lesson or Unit, 2. School Culture, and 3. Public Education Issue.

Phase Three: Classroom Videotaping & Interview Day

The Selection Committee is composed of at least seven judges from the following or related categories:

- Former State Teacher of the Year – who served at least four years prior to date of judging
- Former Honor Roll teacher – who served at least four years prior to date of judging
- College Student/Pre-Service Teacher Representative
- School or district leader representative
- Civic representative
- Business representative
- Higher education representative

The five finalists participate in a two-step process as part of the final phase of the selection process: a videotaping session in each of their classrooms by the SCDE Office of Communications and an interview conducted by the members of the Selection Committee.

The SCDE contacts the finalists to arrange a classroom video recording session. Each teacher selects an unedited and uninterrupted five-minute classroom segment (additional segments are recorded and played during the celebration event), which is shown to the Selection Committee members to be scored.

STATE TOY SELECTION PROCESS

Interview Day

Application points do not carry over; points begin at zero. A sample description of the day follows:

A) Presentation – 30 Points

Each of the five candidates has three to five minutes to respond to a question, provided in advance by the Office of Educator Services pertaining to current public education events.

B) Questions related to classroom video segment – 20 Points

The classroom video segment is played. Judges have ten minutes to ask questions regarding the video and score it.

C) Public Education Issue Question – 20 Points

Each finalist is asked a question based on the individual's response to the Public Education Issue prompt in the written application.

D) Final Question & Answer Session – 25 Points

Finalists answer three questions formulated by the Office of Educator Services and the Office of Communications.

After the interviews conclude, the Teacher of the Year coordinator collects the score sheets and tallies the points. The State Superintendent of Education reveals the identity of the next STOY during the evening of the Teacher of the Year gala.

2020-2021 Institute Teacher of the Year Katie Bell is honored at the State Teacher of the Year gala.

[Click here to view the State TOY information.](#)



STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The Institute Student of the Year is selected by the panel of judges who also select the Teacher of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year. The Student of the Year is a student who has demonstrated leadership, achieved academic excellence, or overcome obstacles. Schools may nominate one SOY per school level (one per elementary school, high school, etc.).

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Institute Volunteer of the Year is selected by the panel of judges who also select the Teacher of the Year and the Students of the Year. The Volunteer of the Year is a parent, community member, or someone otherwise associated with your school who has generously devoted their time and resources to bettering charter schools in South Carolina.

MARCH
28
2022

SOY/VOY/TOY
Winners
selected by
Institute judges

APRIL
20-22
2022

Awards
Banquet

All nominations are
due

Schools with
winning
SOY/VOY/TOY are
notified

APRIL
19
2022

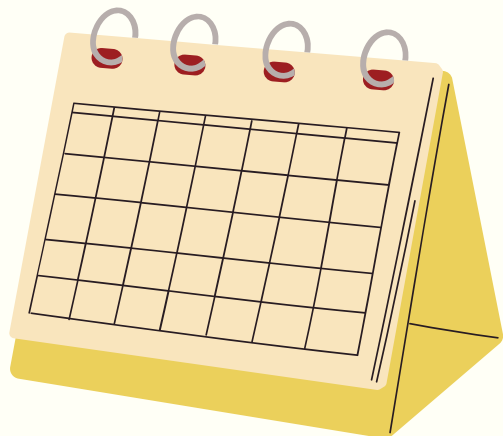
MAY
19
2022

***Kinsley Black, 2021-2022
Elementary School Student of
the Year***

***Sarah Sears, 2021-2022
Volunteer of the Year***



2021-2022 AWARDS BANQUET INFORMATION



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Evening

Columbia, SC

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE STUDENTS, TEACHERS,
AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR](#)

Nominations Due by March 28

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND THE AWARDS
BANQUET](#)

Registrations Due by Friday, May 4

CONTACT

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CHARTER INSTITUTE AT ERSKINE

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Mrs. Anne Brown
2017-2018
Royal Live Oaks Academy



Mrs. Julie Phillips
2019-2020
South Carolina Virtual
Charter School



Mrs. Katie Bell
2020-2021
Lowcountry Leadership
Charter School



Mrs. Laura Ferguson
2021-2022
South Carolina
Connections Academy

TEACHER OF THE YEAR HALL OF FAME