

## Education Minnesota

# A near-record 167 teachers are candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

For more information, contact:

[Doug Dooher](#)

651-292-4820 (work)

651-245-6141 (cell)

[Chris Williams](#)

651-292-4816 (work)

651-247-5539 (cell)

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 18, 2018 – The 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be chosen from a field of 167 candidates. These candidates have accepted their nominations and completed the required materials to become eligible for the honor. The number of candidates this year is the third-most in the 54-year history of the award, and the most since 1981.



This year's program will name the 54th Minnesota Teacher of the Year, celebrating the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade and Adult Basic Education teachers, from public or private schools.

The 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced Sunday, May 6, at the Radisson Blu Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. Over the coming weeks, a 25-member panel of community leaders will name a group of semifinalists and finalists.

Organized and underwritten by Education Minnesota, the Minnesota Teacher of the Year program receives support from Education Minnesota ESI, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors, Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation, McDonald's Restaurants of Minnesota, Radisson Blu Mall of America, SMART Technologies and United Educators Credit Union.

The candidates for 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, listed by their school districts, are:

Jacque Sorensen, Albert Lea Area Schools  
Cheryl Bailey, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
Elizabeth Dorsing, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
Shawn Everson, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
Rachael Fountain, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
Jonathan Kell, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
Ashley Topp, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
Arik Anderson, Austin Public Schools  
Angie Hurtig, Bertha-Hewitt Public Schools  
Celeste Wiederholt, Seven Hills Preparatory Academy, Bloomington  
Lynn Larson, Bloomington Public Schools  
Sara Lyons, Bloomington Public Schools

Tracy Fix, Braham Area Schools  
Thea Trebelhorn, Caledonia Area Public Schools  
Alison Uhrhammer, Cambridge Isanti Schools  
Julie Wells, Cambridge Isanti Schools  
Sue Franke-Clarke, Cannon Falls Area Schools  
Colleen Salay, Centennial Schools  
Brad Schultz, Central Public Schools  
Melissa Oberg, Cook County Schools  
Marie Techam, Delano Public School District  
Holly Bowen-Bailey, Duluth Public Schools  
Jessica Guse, Duluth Public Schools  
Kathryn Johnson, Duluth Public Schools  
Elizabeth Kersting-Peterson, Duluth Public Schools  
Cindy Upton, Duluth Public Schools  
Daniel DeMarce, Eden Prairie Schools  
Tara Jones, Eden Prairie Schools  
Sara Frater, Elk River Area Schools  
Scott Glew, Elk River Area Schools  
Kimberly Johnson, Elk River Area Schools  
Tina Kryduba, Elk River Area Schools  
Tina Ostroot, Elk River Area Schools  
Derek Wold, Elk River Area Schools  
Erin Meyers, Fairmont Area Schools  
Suzette Fuerst, Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Faribault  
Adam Kuehnel, Minnesota Correctional Facility–Faribault  
Jackie Demarais, Faribault Public Schools  
Janet Smith, Faribault Public Schools  
Kaylee Wiens, Faribault Public Schools  
Jenny Marshall, Farmington Area Public Schools  
Tim Leistikow, Fridley Public Schools  
Ben Lofgren, Hawley Public Schools  
Jayne Oachs, Herman-Norcross Community Schools  
Lynn Wilson, Hibbing Public Schools  
Lauren Wester, Hopkins Schools  
Erica Upton-Wurst, Houston Public Schools  
Michelle Sperle-Berg, Howard Lake•Waverly•Winsted Public Schools  
Daryl Lundin, Hutchinson Public Schools  
Pamela Beatty, Intermediate District 287  
Dani Berry, Intermediate District 287  
Melissa Brandenburg, Intermediate District 287  
Erin Doherty, Intermediate District 287  
Jody Seurer, Intermediate School District 288  
Stephanie Snow, Intermediate District 916  
John Dorfner, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools  
Lori Haak, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools  
Stephanie Maybee, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools  
Eric Carlson, Kelliher Public Schools  
Claire Larson, Kenyon Wanamingo School District  
Kayla Hanson, Kittson Central Schools  
Jay Meiners, Lakeview Public Schools  
Jonathan Gilmer, Lakeville Area Public Schools

Ann Hoffman, Lakeville Area Public Schools  
Melissa Mills, Lakeville Area Public Schools  
Elisabeth Haen, Mahtomedi Public Schools  
Kathryn Mackin, Mahtomedi Public Schools  
Sandra Hatlestad, Mankato Area Public Schools  
Diane Waterworth, Marshall County Central Schools  
Malia Norton, Medford Public Schools  
Randy Thompson, Menahga Public School District 821  
Shannon Lepper, Milaca Public Schools  
Ashley Denaway, Prodeo Academy, Minneapolis  
Courtney Bell, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Kathleen Horner, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Alyssa Kuhlman, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Jane Mason, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Susan McNaughton, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Nicolle Johnston, Minneota Public Schools  
Karen Dalager, Minneota Public Schools  
Michael Benson, Moorhead Area Public Schools  
Charlie Borak, Moose Lake Community Schools  
Rebecca Jackson, Moose Lake Community Schools  
Jacquelyn Stevens, Mora Public Schools  
Shana Ulrich, Morris Area Schools  
Kari Eloranta, Mounds View Public Schools  
Jake Hairrell, Mounds View Public Schools  
Claudia Powers, Mounds View Public Schools  
Bill Sucha, Mounds View Public Schools  
Lynne Wilzbacher, North Branch Area Public Schools  
Peg Sorenson, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public Schools  
Pamela Ledermann, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public Schools  
Shaylee McComb, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public Schools  
Kim Slegers, Northfield Public Schools  
Debra Amelse, Osseo Area Schools  
Jessica Carr, Osseo Area Schools  
Rich Johnston, Osseo Area Schools  
Ann Kozarek, Osseo Area Schools  
Jaquinetta Mitchell, Osseo Area Schools  
Jennifer Paulson, Osseo Area Schools  
Lisa Thompson, Osseo Area Schools  
Renee Suess, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Otsego  
Amanda Gislason, Owatonna Public Schools  
Mary Jo Schaefer, Pierz Public Schools  
Deb Anderson, Pipestone Area Schools  
Amy Lorang, Pipestone Area Schools  
Wendi Weber, Pipestone Area Schools  
Desirae Jensen, Princeton Public Schools  
Alex Murkve, Princeton Public Schools  
Leah Gagne, Proctor Public Schools  
Marissa Knapp, Randolph ISD 195  
Sheena Tisland, Red Wing Public Schools  
Colleen Crossley, Robbinsdale Area Schools  
Melissa Davey, Robbinsdale Area Schools

Patricia Peuschold, Robbinsdale Area Schools  
Amanda Harmon, Rochester Arts and Sciences Academy, Rochester  
Sarah Ryan, Rochester Public Schools  
Sue Vatnsdal, Roseau Community Schools  
Andrew Bocchi, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Independent School District  
Joseph Christman, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Independent School District  
Patrick Moriarty, Roseville Area Schools  
Greg Ueland, Roseville Area Schools  
Trysten Olson, Round Lake/Brewster School District  
Ethan Cherin, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Soraya Folley, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Joe Gwin, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Laurie Halvorson, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Jenna Harrison, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Justin Hudalla, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Molly Keenan, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Shirley Land, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Mark Mueller, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Brandi Pottle, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Jeanie Swenson, Saint Paul Public Schools  
Renee Swanson, High School for the Recording Arts, Saint Paul  
Sara Windschitl, Metro Deaf School, Saint Paul  
Adam Johnson, Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools  
Kelly Austin-Hansen, Shakopee Public Schools  
Karen Hislop, Shakopee Public Schools  
Kelly Holstine, Shakopee Public Schools  
Monica Schmit, Shakopee Public Schools  
Jennifer Tabios, Shakopee Public Schools  
Jacob Toufar, Shakopee Public Schools  
Lois Lewis, South Koochiching-Rainy River District  
Jim Schneider, South Koochiching-Rainy River District  
Angela Clement, Spring Lake Park Schools  
Gregory Truso, St. Anthony-New Brighton School District  
Jean Michael, St. Cloud Area School District  
Kathryn Oberg, St. Louis Park Public Schools  
Shane Van Beek, Triton Public Schools  
Kelly Arneson, Underwood School District #550  
Breck Grove, Underwood School District #550  
Cody Kittelson, Wabasso Public Schools  
David Aeling, Waconia Public Schools  
Heather Anton, Waconia Public Schools  
Alyssa Larsen, Waconia Public Schools  
Holly Becker, Wadena-Deer Creek Schools  
Katrina Reeves, Warroad Public Schools  
Rebecca Kittelson, Wayzata Public Schools  
June Heather Carver, Westonka Public Schools  
Kim Collins, Westonka Public Schools  
Jennifer Naslund, Westonka Public Schools  
Lisa Paul, Westonka Public Schools  
Katie Rutledge, Westonka Public Schools  
Angela Bianco, White Bear Lake Area Schools

Nick Marty, White Bear Lake Area Schools  
Amber Mlynczak, Winona Area Public Schools

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