

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: October 7, 2020

To: Principals, SDEA Site Representatives, Teachers and CDC Administrators

Subject: SITE TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Department and/or Persons Concerned: Principals, SDEA Site Representatives, Teachers, CDC Administrators

Due Date: **Wednesday, January 27, 2021, by 5 p.m.** – Nominee for Site Teacher of the Year

Reference: National Day of the Teacher (May 4, 2021)

Action Requested:

1. Print and distribute a copy of the circular and attachment to the school's SDEA representative (or principal designee, if there is no school site SDEA representative)
2. Identify **one** teacher, selected by teachers (Preschool, CDC, PreK-12, Resource Teachers) to represent site at the district's May 4, 2021, Day of the Teacher celebration. Due to the current pandemic, the Teacher of the Year celebration will be held virtually. However, given the fluidity of the situation, any changes to this plan will be communicated as needed.
3. Submit via online form name of Site Teacher of the Year by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.**
4. Encourage the Site Teacher of the Year to apply for District Teacher of the Year, if eligible. Applications will be made available to all site nominees starting Jan. 29, 2021. Please review eligibility requirements on page 2.

Brief Explanation:

On May 4, 2021, San Diego Unified School District will recognize National Teacher Day. The district's Day of the Teacher celebration is traditionally held as a special off-site Board of Education meeting to allow honorees, guests and district leadership to celebrate in a festive environment. During the celebration, school Site Teachers of the Year will be honored and the District Teacher of the Year awardees will be announced.

Quality teachers provide the foundation for student learning and achievement, supporting the district's mission that all students will graduate with the skills, motivation, curiosity and resilience to succeed and be active participants in society. Effective teaching in every classroom is central to creating Quality Schools in Every Neighborhood and are committed to making San Diego a better place. The district's definition of a quality teacher aligns with the five core propositions the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards uses to measure teaching excellence.

When selecting your site nominee, ask yourself "Which site teacher best embodies these principles?"

- Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

- Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
- Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
- Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- Teachers are members of learning communities.

Each site SDEA representative (or principal designee) should hold nominations and conduct a secret ballot to select the school's Site Teacher of the Year. **Submitting nominations and voting are limited to teachers at the site.** Nominees should be fully credentialed classroom teachers whose primary responsibility is teaching students. **Only one nomination can be submitted per school site.** Previous site Teachers of the Year and District Teacher of the Year Runner-ups can be nominated and selected again, however, former or current district Teacher of the Year awardees are not eligible. Teachers with fewer than 6 years at San Diego Unified and 9 in the profession may be nominated as Site Teachers of the Year, but are not eligible for District Teacher of the Year honors (see below for more details). As of 2018, Resource/Education Specialists, preschool and CDC teachers ARE eligible for both honors.

Once the selection is made, the Site Teacher of Year's information should be submitted via [online form](#) to the Human Resources Department by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2021**. Site nominees are strongly encouraged to apply for the District Teacher of the Year award **if they meet the criteria listed below** (Applying is optional). Application packets for District Teacher of the Year will be available to all site nominees starting **Friday, January 29, 2021** and **due by 5 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 22, 2021**.

Qualifications for District Teacher of the Year (comparable to county/state application):

1. Fully credentialed teacher with at least 6 years classroom experience in San Diego Unified and 9 total years of teaching (you may be in your sixth and ninth years), who 1) teaches grades PreK-12, CDC, Resource or Preschool; or 2) teaches adults, providing instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in elementary/secondary grades; or 3) instructs with some administrative responsibilities but for whom teaching students is the primary responsibility.
2. Teacher who plans to continue in an active teaching status.
3. Teacher who is willing to apply for S.D. County Teacher of the Year if selected district winner or runner-up. Teacher shall be available to fulfill ambassadorial duties during the year of service and serve on the Teacher of the Year selection committee for two years.

Submit Site Teacher of the Year nominations via the Google form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ10lWs5aish34D4U7091ZTX6sFr1jXi4Qq1hvTa6nRFKFNA/viewform> by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021**. If you need additional information or have questions regarding the site or district Teacher of the Year process, contact Isabella McNeil at imcneil@sandi.net or Melissa Hudson at mhamilton@sandi.net.

Isabella McNeil
Human Resources Department

APPROVED:
Acacia Thede

Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer