

BERGEN COUNTY TEACHER/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

Background and General Instructions

The **Teacher Recognition Program** was developed in 1985 for the purpose of acknowledging teachers who exhibit outstanding performance. *It is not associated with the Governor's School Teacher of the Year/Educational Services Professionals program.* The rationale for this program is based on the premise that teaching excellence is one of the most significant factors impacting student achievement and the quality of public schools. Further, acknowledging excellence encourages teachers to continue to strive towards that goal. For the purpose of this program, teachers are defined as *those whose primary responsibility is classroom instruction.*

The **Annual Educational Services Professionals Recognition Act** was enacted on January 9, 2004, in recognition of educational services professionals' contributions to the success of public schools and the important services they provide outside of the classroom environment. They improve students' academic opportunities, workforce preparedness, and overall quality of life. The recognition of outstanding educational services professionals is an acknowledgement of efforts and also provides an incentive to others to strive for excellence.

Each school building with at least 10 teachers and/or 10 educational services professionals may **have one teacher or one educational services professional** to be recognized at the county-wide event. Districts having less than 10 teachers or educational services professionals are encouraged to consolidate with other schools.

Criteria for Selection of Exceptional Teachers

Teachers must:

- Hold an appropriate instructional certificate;
- Set high expectations for all students;
- Establish a positive classroom climate and rapport with all students;
- Develop feelings of self-worth and a love of learning in all students;
- Increase student achievement of the *New Jersey Student Learning Standards* in a student-centered learning environment;
- Use a variety of instructional strategies that enable student success;
- Use educational technology effectively in support of learning; and
- Contribute to quality professional development in their districts.

Criteria for Selection of Exceptional Educational Services Professionals

Educational services professionals must:

- Hold an appropriate educational services professional certificate;
- Interact positively with students, staff and parents, while functioning as a frontline advocate for the student between home and school;
- Foster an appropriate environment for learning and explore creative alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potential;
- Interact with students in ways that demonstrate professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion, and concern for the whole child;
- Support student achievement of the *New Jersey Student Learning Standards* while addressing the educational, social, and emotional needs of all students; and
- Contribute to quality professional development in their districts.

Educational Services Professionals may be classified as one of the following:

- Associate School Library Media Specialist
- School Athletic Trainer
- Director of School Counseling Services
- School Counselor
- School Library Media Specialist
- Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant
- Reading Specialist
- School Nurse (Instructional and Non-instructional)
- School Occupational Therapist
- School Physical Therapist
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Speech-Language Specialist
- Substance Awareness Coordinator
- Cooperative Education Coordinator/Hazardous Occupations

NOTE: *One (1) Honoree per Building