

ELIGIBILITY CHANGES IN 2010 FOR THE

Missouri Teacher of the Year

This year, changes have been made to the eligibility criteria for the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program. Previously, school personnel whose duties were primarily administrative, supervisory or focusing on professional development were ineligible. This restriction included guidance counselors, librarians, instructional coaches and other similar positions.

Beginning in 2010-2011, individuals in these positions are now eligible to participate in the Teacher of the Year Program. Principals and other administrators are still ineligible.

The full eligibility criteria are as follows:

Any full-time teacher, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, in a public school district may be a candidate. The nominee should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled teacher in any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, who is planning to continue in an active teaching status. (Supervisory and administrative responsibilities should be of secondary consideration.) Principals and other administrators are ineligible.

Candidates should have the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues. They should inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. They should also play active roles in their communities, providing service and leadership in civic, religious or humanitarian endeavors.

Candidates should be poised and articulate. They should have the energy to withstand a busy schedule as well as the ability to meet people easily. These qualities are important, not only for the personal interview conducted by the state selection committee but also because the Teacher of the Year is frequently interviewed by the media and is invited to speak before professional and civic groups.

For more information, contact:

Missouri Teacher of the Year Program

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