



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

February 19, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Nominations for the 2017 Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Program

All public and accredited nonpublic schools are invited to participate in the 2017 Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Program to select the next Virginia Teacher of the Year and to honor teachers who represent the best in teaching in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation.

For more than 40 years, Virginia has participated in the National Teacher of the Year Program. The program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in partnership with Voya Financial, Inc. In 2006, Virginia's Teacher of the Year program was renamed in honor of the 1989 Virginia and National Teacher of the Year, Dr. Mary V. Bicouvaris.

The program is open to all teachers in pre-kindergarten through grade 12, including school librarians, guidance counselors, and reading specialists, who hold a current renewable Virginia teaching license. Teachers must be employed in a Virginia public or accredited nonpublic school. Candidates should be dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled, and plan to continue in an active teaching status. Candidates who accept administrative or supervisory positions will relinquish their eligibility. Candidates must hold a five-year, renewable Virginia license issued by the Virginia Board of Education. Teachers holding provisional, provisional (special education), provisional (career switcher), eligibility, or international educator licenses are not eligible to participate in the program.

[Attachment A](#) includes general information about the program and application procedures, and [Attachment B](#) is the application. The application must be signed by the teacher, principal, and division superintendent. **The original application packet and six copies must be received by the Virginia Department of Education on or before Friday, May 27, 2016.**

Participation in the Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Program is an activity that students, teachers, school boards, and parents in every community can share. If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Dr. Joan B. Johnson, director of teacher education, at (804) 371-2475 or Joan.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/jbj

Attachments:

- A. [General information and application procedures](#) (Word)
- B. [Application](#) (Word)

