

This document is a preview only.

All applications must be submitted online using the VDOE directions. Thank you.

Form for "Fill Out the Application"

Due Date: February 3rd by 4pm

Questions: TeacheroftheYear@doe.virginia.gov

All sections of this application, portfolio, and signatures are required for consideration. Please make sure to review the qualifications and due date for this submission.

The applicant must be the Teacher of the Year for the 2024-2025 school year in their school division. Only a current division-level Teacher of the Year is eligible to apply for Virginia Teacher of the Year.

2026 Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Application

School Division*

(No response)

Region*

If you are unsure of your division's region, please reference this link: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/about-vdoe/virginia-school-directories/virginia-public-school-listing-by-region>

(No response)

Teacher Information

Teacher's First Name*

(No response)

Teacher's Last Name*

(No response)

Preferred Name

(No response)

Home Address*

(No response)

City*

(No response)

State*

(No response)

Zip Code*

(No response)

Phone*

(No response)

Work Phone

(No response)

Email Address*

(No response)

Virginia Educator License Number*

(No response)

Teaching Endorsements*

(No response)

Institution Where Bachelor's Degree Earned*

(No response)

Institution Where Master's Degree Earned

(No response)

Other Degrees and Institutions

(No response)

I am a National Board-Certified Teacher*

(No response)

Candidate's Facebook Profile*

Include URL to profile, or enter "none"

(No response)

Candidate's X/Twitter Profile*

Include URL to profile, or enter "none"

(No response)

Candidate's Instagram Profile*

Include URL to profile, or enter "none"

(No response)

Other social media, personal website, or blog used by candidate*

Include URL to page, or enter "none"

(No response)

School Division and School Information

Name of School*

(No response)

School Street/Mailing Address*

(No response)

City*

(No response)

State*

(No response)

Zip Code*

(No response)

School Telephone Number*

(No response)

School Fax Number

(No response)

School Profile*

(No response)

Number of Students in School Division*

(No response)

Number of Students in Teacher's School*

(No response)

Current Teaching Area*

(No response)

Grade Level(s)* - written out, for example, as "1st Grade" - list all that apply

(No response)

Total Years of Teaching Experience*

(No response)

Years in Present Position*

(No response)

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Name of Division Contact*

(No response)

Division Address*

(No response)

City*

(No response)

State*

(No response)

Zip Code*

(No response)

Phone*

(No response)

School Division Fax Number

(No response)

Division Contact's Email Address*

(No response)

Legal Disclosures

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

If you have any questions, please email TeacheroftheYear@doe.virginia.gov

Form for "Legal Disclosures"

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or no contest to, a felony? (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Have you ever been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or no contest to, a criminal offense in another country? (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Have you ever been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or no contest to, a misdemeanor involving a child (minor) or a student? (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Have you ever been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or no contest to, a misdemeanor involving drugs (excluding offenses related to alcohol or possession of one ounce or less of marijuana)? (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Have you ever been the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect by a child protection agency? (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Are you currently the subject of any review, inquiry, investigation, or appeal of alleged misconduct that could warrant discipline or termination by a school division or other education-related employer or an adverse action against a teaching, administrator, pupil personnel services, or other education-related license or certificate? Please note: This includes any open investigation by or pending proceeding with a child protection agency and any pending criminal charges. (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Have you ever had a teaching, administrator, pupil personnel services, or other education-related certificate or license revoked, suspended, invalidated, cancelled, or denied by another state, territory, or country; surrendered such a license or the right to apply for such a license; or had any other adverse action taken against such a license? Please note: This includes a reprimand, warning, or reproof and any order denying the right to apply or reapply for a license. (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Have you ever left any education- or school-related employment, voluntarily or involuntarily, under any of the following circumstances: (1) while the subject of a review, inquiry, investigation or appeal of alleged misconduct; (2) when you had reason to believe a review, inquiry, investigation or appeal of alleged misconduct was under way or imminent; or (3) while any administrative or judicial proceeding involving an allegation of misconduct was pending, eligible for appeal, or under appeal? Please note: This includes any open investigation by or pending proceeding with a child protection agency and any pending criminal charges. (If yes, you will be contacted by VDOE to submit a letter of explanation and official documentation.)*

(No response)

Request Principal Recommendation

Please be advised that your application cannot be submitted until all recommenders have completed their recommendation forms.

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

Request Superintendent Recommendation

Please be advised that your application cannot be submitted until all recommenders have completed their recommendation forms.

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Preview Only

Educational History and Professional Development Activities

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

This section must be in outline form and limited to two pages, using a font size no smaller than 10. These two pages may be single-spaced. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.

Please save this file using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_EducationalHistory. For example: Richmond_Smith_Educational History.

A. Education: Beginning with the most recent, list colleges and universities attended, including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned, dates of degrees conferred, and dates of attendance.

B. Certifications: Beginning with the most recent, list professional certification(s), including the dates obtained and related training.

C. Experience: Beginning with the most recent, list teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level, and subject area.

D. Professional Associations: Beginning with the most recent, list professional association memberships, including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.

E. Community and Civic Involvement: Beginning with the most recent, list community or civic involvement, such as volunteer work, and other group activities at the local, national and international levels.

F. Leadership: Beginning with the most recent, list personal professional development leadership activities and leadership activities related to the professional development of future teachers. Also, list professional development activities in which you participated (but did not have a leadership role).

G. Awards and Other Recognitions: Beginning with the most recent, list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

Essay 1: Professional Biography

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

Each essay in this section must be limited to the maximum word limit indicated below, using a font size no smaller than 10. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.

Please save this file using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_Essay1. For example: Richmond_Smith_Essay1.

Professional Biography (maximum 750 words): Please complete your professional biography in third person. Describe the factors that influenced you to become a teacher. Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

Essay 2: Philosophy of Teaching

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

Each essay in this section must be limited to the maximum word limit indicated below, using a font size no smaller than 10. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.

Please save this file using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_Essay2. For example: Richmond_Smith_Essay2.

Philosophy of Teaching (maximum 500 words): Describe a project or initiative in which you have been involved that contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, how did you collaborate with others, and what is the status of this project today? Please include evidence of student impact.

Essay 3: Student Impact

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

Each essay in this section must be limited to the maximum word limit indicated below, using a font size no smaller than 10. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.

Please save this file using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_Essay3. For example: Richmond_Smith_Essay3.

Student Impact (maximum 500 words): How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom? Describe specific ways in which you connect your students and the community. Share how these community connections dissolve classroom walls and are used to impact student learning and success. Please include evidence of student impact.

Essay 4: Student Engagement

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

Each essay in this section must be limited to the maximum word limit indicated below, using a font size no smaller than 10. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.

Please save this file using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_Essay4. For example: Richmond_Smith_Essay4.

Student Engagement (maximum 750 words): Describe a lesson or unit that best defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning? How did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit?

Essay 5: Education Issues and Trends

Once "Mark as Complete" is selected, no further edits may be applied.

Each essay in this section must be limited to the maximum word limit indicated below, using a font size no smaller than 10. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.

Please save this file using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_Essay5. For example: Richmond_Smith_Essay5.

Education Issues and Trends (maximum 500 words): What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Put yourself in the role of the Virginia Teacher of the Year and share your message to other educators in the Commonwealth. Describe how you demonstrate being a lifelong learner, leader, and innovator about this issue, both in and outside of the classroom walls.

Letters of Support

Include **three** letters of support in the application packet from any of the following: superintendent, principal, administrator, colleague, student/former student, parent, or civic leader. An effective letter of support contains evidence of personal knowledge of the teacher and an indication of the qualities that would qualify the candidate to be the 2026 Virginia Teacher of the Year. **These letters must be included in your portfolio. Do not send letters of support separately. Uploads are limited to PDF files only.**

Please save these files using the following naming convention: Division_LastName_Letter#. For example: Richmond_Smith_Letter1, Richmond_Smith_Letter2, Richmond_Smith_Letter3.

Limit each letter to one typed page. Letters may be single-spaced with a font size no smaller than 10 point.

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Teacher Certification and Permission

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Form for "Teacher Certification and Permission"

This is my form.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND PERMISSION

By my signature, I certify that the information on this application is accurate and complete, and I possess a current five- or ten-year Virginia renewable license issued by the Virginia Board of Education. I hereby give my permission that any of the attached materials may be shared with persons interested in promoting the Mary V. Bicouvaris Virginia Teacher of the Year Program.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION ATTESTATION

This application represents my work and my experience. It was written without content generated by others, including, but not limited to artificial intelligence tools. Appropriate citation is used when referencing, summarizing or paraphrasing the work of others."

Signature of Teacher (click and drag in box to record signature)

Date of Signature

Name of Teacher