The Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY) Program recognizes the great contribution teachers make to the state and to the learning community. The program recognizes and honors teacher excellence. It does not attempt to select the “best” teacher; rather, to identify, from among many outstanding teachers, one teacher to serve as a visible and vocal representative of what is best in the profession.

The MTOY program is sponsored by: the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the State Board of Education (SBE), and Meemic.

The National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) program, sponsored by the Voya Foundation is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), in partnership with the University of Phoenix Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs.

The MTOY program provides a teacher with a tremendous opportunity for personal growth and professional influence on education policy, student learning, and teacher professional development. The MTOY meets with policymakers, educators, parents, students, and citizen groups, sharing a passion for teaching and a vision for learning and schools. The MTOY participates in the National Teacher of the Year activities including a national conference in Phoenix, Arizona; the announcement of the NTOY in Washington, D.C.; Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama; and the Next Steps Conference in Princeton, New Jersey.

The selection of the MTOY also brings great recognition to the teacher’s school system. A financial award is presented to the school by Meemic and many gifts are presented for the teacher’s use in the classroom including a classroom technology package from SMART Technologies. Professional development is provided to the teacher who can then bring that new learning to other teachers in the district. The MTOY has the opportunity through Walden University for a full scholarship to the Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership programs.

PURPOSE OF THE MTOY AWARD

- To recognize excellence in the teaching profession.
- To provide opportunities for the MTOY to interact with policymakers.
- To provide a public voice/spokesperson for the teaching profession.
- To focus public attention on the importance of teachers.
CRITERIA

The successful MTOY candidate:

- is an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teacher in a Michigan school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12 and alternative education;
- plans to continue in an active teaching status;
- spends a minimum of 50% of her/his time teaching students;
- inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- has the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- plays an active and useful role in the community, as well as in the school district;
- is poised and articulate;
- has the energy to withstand a busy schedule;
- must be in good standing with her/his district;
- has completed a minimum of five years of successful teaching experience.

WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

The MTOY will serve as the voice for Michigan teachers and travel across the state and nation, meeting with policy makers, educators, parents, students, and citizen groups. He/she will often be asked to speak at education conferences and also participates in a non-voting capacity at monthly State Board of Education meetings.

The MTOY participates in the NTOY activities including a national conference in Phoenix, Arizona; announcement of the NTOY in Washington, D.C.; Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama; and the Next Steps Conference in Princeton, New Jersey. The MTOY participates in up to three Meemic-sponsored events.

For further details regarding MTOY duties, please refer to MTOY Position Description at: www.michigan.gov/mtoy.

COST RESPONSIBILITIES

The MTOY remains as a full-time employee in his/her district. Districts may opt to provide the teacher with an adjusted teaching schedule to accommodate the extra expectations from both the district and state levels that are associated with the role of MTOY. This is a decision to be made at the district level.

TIMELINE

To access the 2016-2017 MTOY timeline, go to MDE site: www.michigan.gov/mtoy and click on 2016-2017 MTOY Timeline.

NOMINATIONS

MTOY NOMINATIONS
Colleagues, administrators, board members, parents, students, education-related organizations, such as the PTO, and other community members may submit online MTOY nominations for teachers who are in good standing with their district/employer. The educator must be a certified teacher and be in good standing with their
district/employer. Those who are nominated online will receive an invitation from the State Superintendent to apply for the MTOY position.

TO NOMINATE A 2016-2017 MTOY TEACHER
Go to MDE website: www.michigan.gov/mtoy and click on 2016-2017 Online Nomination Form. Complete the form and click submit.

DISTRICT RECOGNITION
Recognition of the district’s nominated teachers by the local school board at a regularly scheduled board meeting is one way to extend the community’s thanks for the contributions teachers make every day.

APPLICATION

The 2016-2017 MTOY Applications are located on MDE website: www.michigan.gov/mtoy.

Application Part A is due December 16, 2015 by 11:59 p.m. Those selected as semifinalists will be contacted directly to complete Application Part B, due February 16, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. All applications must adhere to the application instructions and sent via email to mtoy@michigan.gov.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the MTOY application process, please contact Ann-Marie Mapes at mapesa@michigan.gov or email mtoy@michigan.gov.