

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

June 18, 2026

Agenda Item: 2025 Iowa Teacher of the Year Final Report

State Board Goal(s): All

State Board Role/Authority: The State Board supports access to excellent educational opportunities for all students in Iowa.

Presenter(s): Stefanie Wager, Administrative Consultant
Bureau of Academics and Learner Supports

Melanie Bloom
2025 Iowa Teacher of the Year

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: The Iowa Teacher of the Year Award was established in 1958 and is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature. The Iowa Department of Education established the Iowa Regional Teachers of the Year award in 2024 to recognize exceptional teachers, representing all nine education regions of the state, who demonstrate excellence in the classroom and who have made a significant impact on student outcomes and their fellow educators. The nine Regional Teachers of the Year serve as finalists for the Iowa Teacher of the Year award. The awards provide an opportunity to recognize Iowa teachers across the state who advance student learning through evidence-based instruction, empower students with multiple pathways to postsecondary success, learn from and invest in fellow educators and serve students in partnership with families. The Iowa Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador for the Iowa Department of Education and a representative of and liaison for all Iowa educators.