



## Ball Brothers Foundation EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD Guide

The superintendents of public schools in Delaware County are invited to nominate teachers for the “Excellence in Teaching Award.” Each school district is permitted to submit up to three nominations with no more than one nomination each from the elementary, middle and high school level.

### The Award

The Award of \$17,500 will be presented as a grant to be used to further support creativity and innovation in the school district (\$5,000), school (\$5,000) and classroom (\$5,000) of the winning teacher. A portion of the grant (\$2,500) will be specifically used for professional development opportunities selected by the winning teacher. Two additional finalists will be awarded a grant of \$1,500 to be used in their classroom (\$1,000) and for professional development (\$500).

### Eligibility

- Nominee must be a teacher currently teaching in the classroom in grades K-12 in a Delaware County public school system
- Nominee must have a minimum of three years teaching experience and be fully accredited to teach in the state of Indiana

### Selection Process

Nominations must be submitted online via GOApply by March 1. **Nominations must be submitted using the school district’s GoApply account.** A panel of outside judges with backgrounds in education and business will review and rank the nominations. BBF staff will then invite the top candidates to participate in an interview and classroom observation. The winner and finalists will be selected in April and the award will be presented in May.

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Narrative & Attachment Info



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**Definitions - The following are definitions adopted by Ball Brothers Foundation to be considered when completing this nomination.**

**Authentic Learning** – an innovative instructional approach that allows students to explore, discuss, and meaningfully construct concepts and relationships in contexts that involve real-world problems and projects that are relevant to the learner.

**21st-century Skills** – to promote essential learning and innovation skills to prepare students for more complex life and work environments, a 21st-century classroom must promote creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

**Narrative Questions - Responses are limited to 2000 characters (including spaces and punctuation)**

1. Teaching Philosophy - What are your beliefs about teaching and learning?
2. Instructional Process - Using your response to question 1, describe a unit that defines you as a teacher and reflects your concept of authentic learning and 21st-century skills. Include the following in your response: goals set for the unit, environment established to promote authentic learning, teaching/learning strategies utilized, desired outcomes, and how final results were used in evaluating the success of your unit.
3. Authentic Learning - Give specific examples of how your students are using 21st-century skills to engage in meaningful learning that is relevant to their lives and prepares them for future learning and success.
4. Professional Development - What professional development opportunity would help you become a better teacher and why?

**Required Attachments - Must be in Word, PDF, TIF, BMP or JPG format\***

Letters of Support:  
Principal  
Colleague  
Parent and/or Student