

## ***2023 Florida Literacy Association Literacy Teacher of the Year***

The *2023 Florida Literacy Association (FLA) K-12 Literacy Teacher of the Year Award* will be given to an individual who has made significant contributions in the teaching of reading and literacy. Special consideration will be given to candidates who are active members in their local reading council if one exists in their county of employment, FLA, and International Literacy Association.

Nominations are to be solicited from each school district and local reading councils. Application forms will be given to local councils by FLA and available to schools through Just Read, Florida!

The FLA Scholarship and Awards Committee will evaluate the candidates and choose a winner. Applications are due no later than **October 23, 2023**. The winner will be notified by **November 20, 2023**, honored at the **2024 FLA Conference, January 19-21**, in Orlando, FL, featured in the FLA Newsletter, the Florida Reading Journal, and on the FLA website as well as a check for \$300. The winner's District Superintendent/Local Council President will be notified.

To be nominated, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Has made a positive impact on student reading.
2. Applies innovative reading and literacy techniques in a classroom setting.
3. Promotes reading and literacy outside the school.
4. Has had advanced study in reading through college courses and/or in service workshops.
5. Has published articles or made presentations at in-service workshops and/or conference sessions.
6. Provides proof of current membership in a local reading council (optional), Florida Literacy Association (required), and the International Literacy Association (optional).

School districts and local councils must select their nominees and return the completed nomination form and supporting documentation to the FLA awards coordinator on or before **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Completed submissions may be submitted electronically to Rob Kelly at [rob@readusainc.com](mailto:rob@readusainc.com).

Prior to **October 23, 2023**, participating districts/councils may submit one candidate who will represent the district/council as the *2023 Florida Literacy Association K-12 Literacy Teacher of the Year*. **Only the District Reading Contact or Local Reading Council Contact may submit the nomination.** Nominations should be made without regard to race, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or disability.

**The following full-time district educators who are current members of FLA and a local/county reading council (where applicable) are eligible for nomination:**

- Full time elementary, middle or high school classroom teachers responsible for reading instruction for students on a daily basis – Grades K-12
- Full time Reading Intervention teachers – Grades K-12
- Disciplinary Literacy Teachers – Grades K-12

Submit the completed nomination packets **with attached cover letter** verifying that the nominees have been selected as the district/council Literacy Teacher of the Year.

Include **three letters of recommendation per nominee of no more than one page in length.** These may be selected from colleagues, the teacher's principal, an administrator and/or a civic or community leader. Letters should provide evidence of how the candidate meets the nomination criteria.

FLA will consider and review only the materials requested in the nomination packet. Additional materials submitted with the application will not be considered.

**E-mail electronic files of the FLA Literacy Teacher of the Year Application packet no later than October 23, 2023, to Rob Kelly at [rob@readusainc.com](mailto:rob@readusainc.com) .**

**Please include the following subject line information: *2023 FLA Literacy Teacher of the Year.***

## **Selection Criteria**

**Nominees will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:**

- Fosters excellence in education and contribute to the continuous improvement of student

learning and the school environment.

- Displays expertise in the area of reading and an ability to effectively use materials relating to reading instruction.
- Utilizes original and/or innovative instructional materials and methods.
- Maintains a record of superior teaching performance as evidenced by data driven student gains, annual performance assessments and/or recognition of work.
- Actively participates in continued professional development as evidenced by conference attendance or presentation, participation in relevant training and/or advanced degrees.
- Demonstrates leadership in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level.
- Displays exemplary interpersonal skills in communicating with students, parents, community members, and other professionals.
- Participates in peer coaching and mentoring activities.
- Utilizes innovative research techniques.
- Engages parents/families in the learning process to enhance student literacy achievement
- Promotes literacy through the use of reading strategies in instruction and/or the implementation of projects.
- Intended to enhance student reading skills.
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect conducive to effective teaching and learning.
- Evidence of dedication to his/her community through active participation in service-oriented projects, volunteer work, etc.
- Maintains membership in FLA and a local reading council, where an active council operates in the county of employment.

**Cover Letter**  
**2023 FLA Literacy Teacher of the Year**

**School District FLA-TOY  
Nominee:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**School District:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of District Reading/  
Local Council Contact:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**District Reading/Local  
Council Contact Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**District Reading/Local  
Council Contact's  
Numbers:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax**

**District Reading/Local Council  
Contact's e-mail address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that this nomination is submitted with my approval.

Local Council/District Reading Contact's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Application form due by  
September 30, 2023  
All areas of this application must be filled out legibly**

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Work (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

Work Email \_\_\_\_\_

Present Employment Position \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate sheet of paper, please provide the following information:**

1. Evidence of a positive impact on student reading
2. Evidence of innovative reading and literacy techniques in a classroom setting
3. Evidence of the promotion of reading and literacy outside the school setting
4. Evidence of advanced study in reading through college and/or in-service workshops
5. Evidence of articles published or presentations made at in-service workshops and/or conference sessions
6. Proof of current membership in local reading council (optional), Florida Literacy Association (requested), and the International Literacy Association (optional)

Include a current vita/resume and three letters of recommendation which should be from: an administrator, a coworker, an FLA District Director/officer, or a local/special interest council president.

**Instructions for Completing Sections I and II of the  
*FLA 2023 Literacy Teacher of the Year Application***

Respond to both of the following sections. **Responses must be typed, double-spaced, utilizing a font not smaller than 11 point.** Begin each section on a new page and specify the section number and title. **(A sample header should read as follows: "I. Educational History and Professional Development Activities.")** If the section allows more than one page for the response, the subsequent pages need only be identified with the section number.

***Limit your answers to the number of pages requested in each section. In fairness to all applicants, only the number of pages requested will be reviewed.***

## ***I. Educational History and Professional Development Activities***

*(Limit response to two pages)*

***Provide a copy of your resume, to include the following information:***

1. Beginning with the most recent, list colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
2. Beginning with the most recent, list teaching employment history, indicating time period, grade level and subject area.
3. Beginning with the most recent, list:
  - Professional association memberships, including FLA and local reading council if applicable
  - Information regarding offices held and other relevant activities undertaken within the five (5) year period preceding the filing of this application.
4. Beginning with the most recent, list:
  - Staff development leadership activities
  - Training in instructional strategies and/or leadership
  - Activities in the training of current teachers undertaken within the five (5) year period preceding the filing of this application.
5. Beginning with the most recent, list awards and honors in recognition of your teaching abilities.
6. Provide all relevant data that will support your effectiveness as a reading/literacy teacher.

## ***II. Reading/Literacy Teacher Philosophy***

*(Limit response to five pages)*

Respond to the question below. Response must be typed, double-spaced, utilizing a font not smaller than 11.

**Summarize your philosophy of teaching. Be sure to include how your philosophy is reflected in the following areas:**

1. Professional Development
2. Student Instruction
3. Promoting a Culture of Literacy (give specific examples and include student performance data)