

TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2024-25 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.
A PURCHASE DOES NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.**

1. **SPONSOR:** The Inter-State Studio and Publishing Company’s “Teacher of the Year” contest is sponsored by Inter-State Studio and Publishing Company. 3500 Snyder Ave., Sedalia, Missouri 65301.
2. **CONTEST PERIOD:** The Contest runs between 12:00 a.m. Central Standard Time (“CST”) on January 6, 2025 and 11:59 p.m. CST on March 19, 2025 (the “Contest Period”) and consists of three (3) phases as set forth in the chart below:

Phase	Starts at 12:00 a.m. CST	Ends at 11:59 p.m. CST
Submission	January 6, 2025	March 19, 2025
Judging	March 24, 2025	April 11, 2025
Finalist Notification		April 18, 2025

Administrator’s computer is the official timekeeping device for the Contest.

3. **ENTRY:** All entries must include a completed entry form. You, as the person submitting the entry form, will be referred to as the “Nominators” in these rules and regulations. Submissions will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. CST March 19, 2025. All entries made after March 19, 2025 will not be eligible. All submissions must be entered through Inter-State Studio’s webpage at inter-state.com/teacheroftheyear.

There are two (2) divisions. Divisions will be determined based on the relationship of the Nominator to the Nominee.

- a. **Student Division:** Nominators that are students (K-12) will be entered into the Student Division. If the nominating individual is under 18, parental consent is needed to participate. Parent contact information will be required for those under the age of 18.
- b. **Peer Division:** Nominators that are principal(s), former student(s), school peer(s), or student parents will be entered into the Peer Divisions.

To nominate a teacher, an entry form must be completed in its entirety. Any entry form not completed in its entirety will not be accepted as a qualifying entry. The entry form consists of the following sections:

- a. Information about the individual nominating.
- b. Basic information of the Nominee. (example: first, last name)
- c. A 100-500 uniquely worded essay, poem, or thank-you that describes why you feel your Nominee should be selected as Inter-State Studio’s Teacher of the Year.
 - i. Responses should indicate details that answer all three of the following:

1. Why do you feel this teacher is deserving of this award?
2. Describe an event or time where this teacher made an impact upon you or his/her students.
3. How has this teacher made an impact on your school?

Nominator: Entries must have parental consent by a parent or guardian if the individual nominating is under the age of 18. If under 18, your submission of an entry form is your guarantee that you have permission from a parent or guardian.

Use Rights/Ownership: By entering the Contest, Nominators agree to have their essay displayed on the Inter-State Studio website without any fee or other form of compensation, and agree that Inter-State Studio and Publishing Co. may use the essay for promotional use (decided by the Sponsor). Essays will be credited to the Nominator named in the entry form. In the event that ownership of an essay submitted is contested in any matter, Sponsors may disqualify that essay and discontinue use of the essay.

4. **REQUIREMENT & ELIGIBILITY:** 2024-2025 Inter-State Studio Teacher of the Year (the “Contest”) is open only to Nominators who are legal residents of the fifty (50) United States (plus Washington, D.C.), who are at least eighteen (18) years of age or older at time of entry. Residents of the State of Rhode Island are not eligible to participate in the Contest. Void where prohibited. Employees, officers and directors of Inter-State Studio and Publishing Co. (collectively the “Sponsor”), all advertising and promotional agencies and their respective parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, sales representatives, distributors, manufacturers, licensees, or agents, advertising and Contest agencies, and their immediate family members and those living in the same household of each, are not eligible to participate in this Contest. Subject to all applicable federal, state, municipal, and local laws and regulations.
5. **RELEASES:** In order for the Nominator(s) to have her/her essay eligible for public display, he/she is responsible for obtaining all required licenses, clearances, consents, releases, or other authorizations so that the essay can be displayed in any and all media without infringement of any copyright owned by a third party. The Nominator is also responsible for obtaining releases, consents, clearances, or other authorization (“Permissions”) as needed for use of the essay. Verification of Permissions may be required before the essay is uploaded for voting.
6. **JUDGING:** All judging will be handled by Inter-State Studio’s management. Voting will start on January 6, 2025. All entries made after March 21, 2025 will not be accepted. Official winners will be announced on April 18, 2025.
 - a. **Initial Judging by Qualified Panel:** During the Initial Judging Phase, a panel of qualified judges (selected by Sponsors in their sole discretion), whose decisions regarding the Contest and related matters are final and binding, will select from all eligible Nominators who submitted their entry form during the Submission Phase. The judges will make this decision based upon the following criteria:
 - i. Completeness of overall entry.

- ii. Does the essay, poem, or thank you stay within the 100-500 word limitation?
 - iii. Does the essay, poem, or thank you address each of the three questions outlined on the entry form?
 - iv. The impact upon the judges of the content of the essay, poem, or thank you describing why the Nominee should be granted the title of Inter-State Studio's Teacher of the Year. Should a tie remain, a new judge (determined by Sponsors in their sole discretion) will re-judge the remaining tied entries based upon all criteria set forth above. If the qualified panel is unavailable for any reasons to judge the Finalist, then new judges shall be selected by Sponsors in their sole discretion.
- b. Final Voting and Contest Winner Determination: The twenty (20) Finalists will be re-judged by a panel of qualified judges using the criteria listed above to determine the on (1) Grand Prize winner and two (2) Runner-up winners. The one (1) Finalist that received the highest score between all categories will be claimed the Grand Prize winner. The two (2) Finalists receiving the highest scores in each of their two (2) respective categories will be deemed Runner-up winners.
- c. Finalist Verification and Disqualification: Potential Finalists will be notified on or about April 18, 2025 by phone, email, and/or mail using the contact information given at the time of entry. The Sponsors, in their sole discretion, may disqualify a Finalist for any reason relating to behavioral issues. In the event of disqualification, Sponsors will select another potential Finalist in accordance with the judging procedures listed in Section 6(a), up to two (2) times (if time permits), after which the applicable Finalist will not be awarded.

7. **PRIZES:**

NOTICE: This is not a game of chance or a lottery. The odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entrants that meet contest requirements.

Winners will be chosen based upon the criteria Section 6(a). Winners are responsible for all taxes and fees associated with prize receipt and/or use. Limit: One (1) per Nominee. In no event will more prizes be awarded than those listed in these Official Contest Rules below:

- a. The one (1) Grand Prize winner (out of both categories) will receive: a classroom grant (\$300 value) and an "Inter-State Teacher of the Year" plaque.
- b. The two (2) Runner-ups (one (1) for each division) will receive: a classroom grant (\$200 value) and an "Inter-State Teacher of the Year" plaque.

All prize trademarks and trade names are properties of their respective owners and are not a sponsor for the Teacher of the Year Contest. For In-Store Marketing: All aspects of in-store marketing will be determined by Inter-State Studio in their sole discretion, including without limitation the nature of the marketing, and/or the type of marketing. Beyond the financial benefit of the prize package, Winner will not receive any residual fees, including but not limited to residual fees to re-use the marketing at any time in any media and/or advertisement for merchandise or any other purpose. Additionally, Inter-State Studio and Publishing Co. reserve the right to postpone or cancel use of any essay regarding the Winner in any marketing by their sole discretion. If Winner cannot be used in the marketing for any reason, as determined by

Inter-State Studio and Publishing Co. in their sole discretion, then a substitute will be made except as provided herein at the Sponsors' sole discretion.

All prizes are non-transferable. No cash equivalent and no substitution will be made except as provided herein at the Sponsors' sole discretion. Sponsors reserve the right to substitute any listed prize for one of equal or greater value if the designated prize should become unavailable for any reason.

8. **GENERAL RULES:** By entering or participating in the Contest, Nominators be bound by these Official Rules. Sponsors assume no responsibility for electronic hardware, programming or software malfunctions, or failures, or line connections, accessibility or availability, or technical failures of any kind, or unauthorized human intervention, or the incorrect or inaccurate capture of any entry or other information, or for the failure to capture any such information. Sponsors are not responsible for:
- a. any incorrect or inaccurate information whether caused by Nominators or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest;
 - b. technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software;
 - c. unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Contest;
 - d. any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from Nominator's participation in the Contest or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.

Further, if, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as planned by reason of infection by virus, bugs, worms, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes which, in the sole opinion of the Sponsors, may corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of this Contest, Sponsors reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest, and select the winners or Finalists for the Contest, from the entries received prior to the action taken or in other such manner as deemed fair and appropriate by Sponsors.

Nominators, by participating in this Contest, hereby waive and release, and agree to hold harmless the Sponsors, the Administrator, all promotions and advertising agencies, and their respective partners, subsidiaries, affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotions agencies, and all of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives and agents, from and against, any and all rights, claims and causes of action whatsoever that they may have, or which may arise, against any of them for any liability for any matter, cause or thing whatsoever, including but not limited to any injury, loss, damage, whether direct, compensatory, incidental or consequential, to person, including death and property, arising in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from their acceptance, possession, use or misuse of the prize in the Contest, or their participation in the Contest, or their participation in any Contest or prize-related activity, or any travel related to the Contest or any travel for any prize-related activity. Winners and Finalists also further acknowledge that Sponsors, their affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, officers, directors or liable for, any warranty, representation or guarantee, expressed or implied, in fact or in law relative to any prize or this Contest including but not limited to quality, condition or fitness

for a particular purpose.

9. **PERSONAL INFORMATION:** The personal information collected through the Contest is subject to Sponsors' privacy statements. Any personal information handled by an agency or vendor of Sponsors, will be done solely on their behalf and all such information shall be handled exclusively in conformance with Sponsors' privacy statements.