

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.185

Teacher of the Year

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Teacher of the Year

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Educator Recruitment and Retention

1b. What does this program do?

The major purpose of the Teacher of the Year program is to reward classroom teachers for their contributions to Missouri students through public recognition, an awards banquet, cash awards and donated gifts . Teacher quality and effectiveness is the most important school-based factor impacting student learning. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the learning environment where children flourish and grow. The mission of the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program is to honor, promote and celebrate excellence in the teaching profession.

Districts participating in the Teacher of the Year Program have found the program to have a positive impact on the entire community. Recognizing outstanding teachers: a) establishes a culture that rewards excellence in teaching; b) validates the work of teachers; c) provides teachers with a platform to speak about educational issues; d) gives students a sense of pride in their teachers; e) showcases teachers as positive role models; f) encourages students to think about teaching as a career; g) gives the community a sense of pride in its teachers; and h) helps to get the public involved and invested in the schools.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 year, the department added a Regional Teacher of the Year recognition level to the Missouri State Teacher of the Year Program. Through this addition, the program was able to recognize excellence in teaching at the school, district, regional and state levels. In addition, this fulfills the following goals: 1st, design a plan to recognize exemplary teachers from diverse educational communities (i.e. urban, suburban, rural) and 2nd, provide a structure and protocol for identifying and recognizing exemplary performance statewide.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

The Teacher of the Year program is available to all Missouri school districts and charter schools with approximately 69,000 teachers statewide. As shown in the chart in 2c., the addition of the regional program and nomination process is allowing more districts and charter schools to actively participate by removing the barrier of requiring a formal district process.

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

The response received via nominations and district recommendations indicates that our customers feel that the addition of the Regional Teacher of the Year Program is highly successful. The applications received have tripled over past years and represent many areas from around the state. The demand for the services of the Missouri State Teacher of the Year has outweighed his or her ability/time. Implementing the regional model will enable recognition and mobilization of the services of these highly successful teachers in the state.

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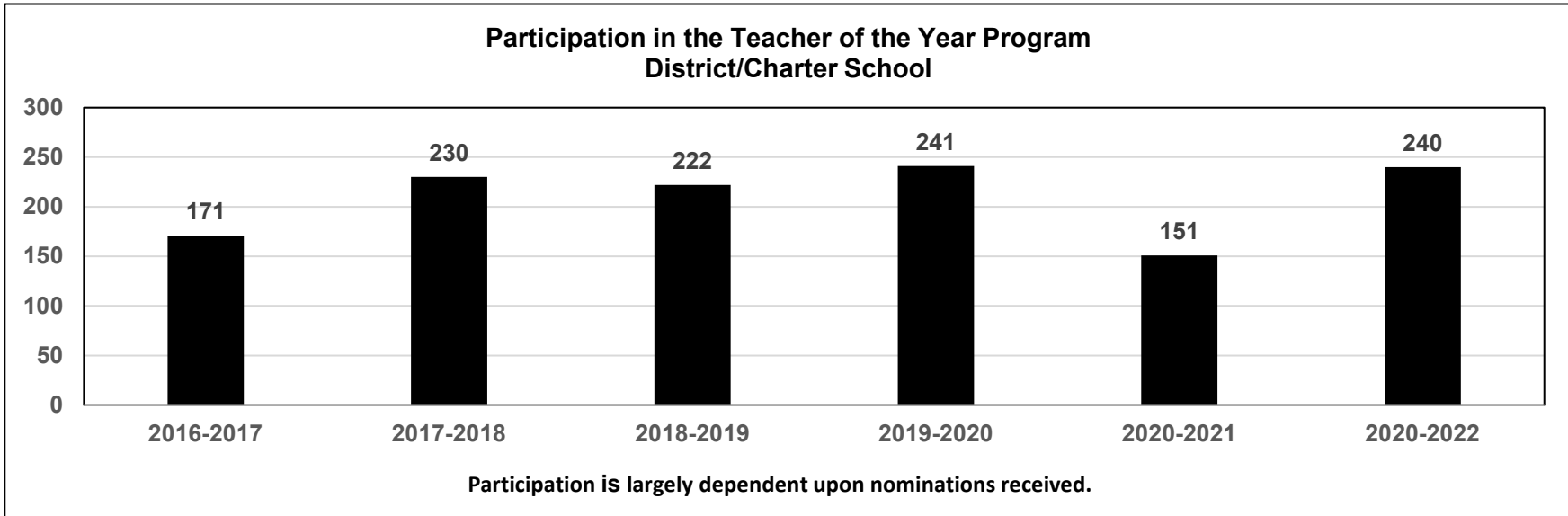
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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



In 2016-2017, the Office of Educator Quality within the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education implemented the Regional Teacher of the Year recognition process as an intermediary step to the Missouri State Teacher of the Year Program. Many of the state's smaller districts and charter schools do not have a formal process in place to select a district Teacher of the Year. Implementing the Regional Teacher of the Year process with two paths to the Missouri State Teacher of the Year (district selected teacher and nomination process), enables these districts to participate through the nomination path. Each district is allowed to either self-select a District Teacher of the Year or nominate one teacher per district or charter school for Regional Teacher of the Year. This year due to COVID - 19 only 151 districts and charter schools participated through selection or nomination of a highly effective teacher. Grant funding is used to recognize and reward these great teachers and teaching through Regional Teacher of the Year Banquets, the State Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet, cash awards and other donated gifts. In addition, the program supports best practice and sharing across the state, working with pre-service teachers, advocating for public education as a career choice, and showcasing highly effective teachers.

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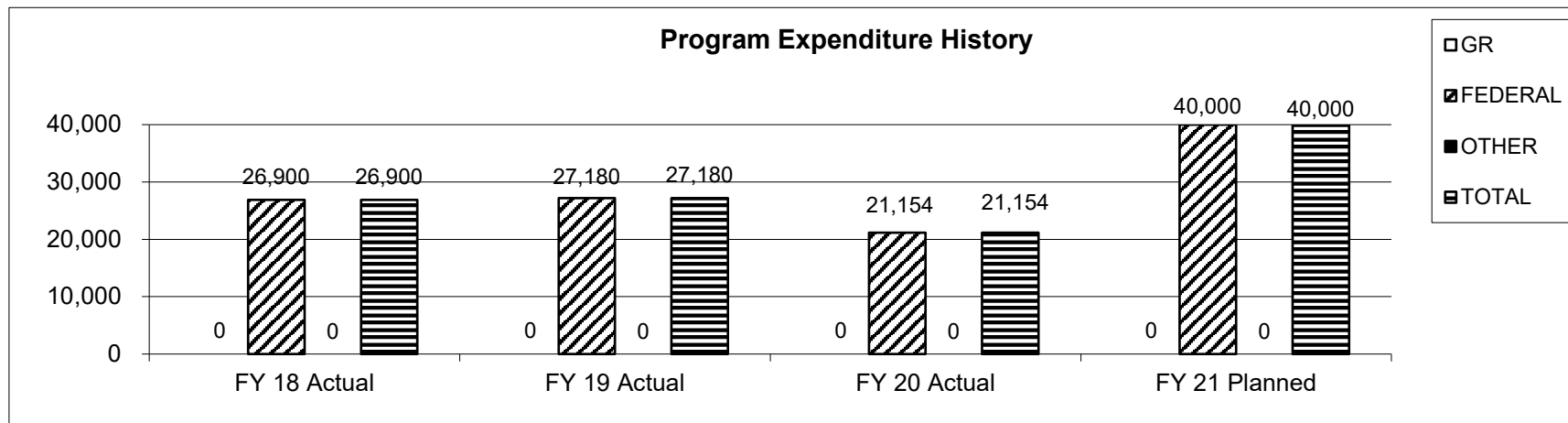
2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

Through the implementation of the two-pronged approach to the Regional Teacher of the year Program the program is now able to recognize and reward 3 times as many highly effective teachers across the state than in previous years. Regional applications are read and scored by regional teams and selections are made at the regional level. In addition, teachers are recognized regionally with celebrations and the regional centers are able to utilize these highly effective teachers in their respective regions. Now, each region of the state has candidates competing for Missouri State Teacher of the Year and the number of teachers being recognized regionally, will continue to grow as more districts become aware of the nomination process.

The State Teacher of the Year Selection Committee reads and scores the state applications that are submitted from the 34 Regional Teachers of the Year. This has greatly streamlined the state process and also ensures that the state applications are of the highest quality. In addition, all 34 Regional Teachers of the Year, along with their district superintendent, building principal, school board president and his or her significant other, are recognized at the state level awards banquet. This program not only recognizes the work of great teachers but the wonderful districts that support them.

The implementation of the Regional Teacher of the Year Program allows better service at all districts and charter schools by creating a model that allows participation from all. Recognizing the needs of the districts served and working hard to eliminate any roadblocks that hinder participation will allow the program to continue to grow, be more effective and efficient at the state level, and more equitable statewide. Ultimately, it allows the program to honor many more hard working and highly effective teachers across our state.

3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



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4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

House Bill 2 - Section 2.165

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

N/A

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

N/A