

# WE REWARD OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TEACHERS

The Texas Medical Association invites you to showcase the creativity and innovation you use to inspire students to pursue medical careers by applying for the Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching. Complete the online application and include the following:

## EDUCATIONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*(include dates)*

- College, university, and post-graduate study, with degrees earned;
- Teaching employment history, with grade levels and subject areas;
- Professional association memberships, including leadership positions and other relevant activities;
- Continuing education completed during the past two years (identify those required by the district);
- Science-related professional development sessions presented (e.g., collaborative efforts with colleagues) and attended during the past two years (identify those required by the district);
- Awards and other recognition;
- Grants received; and
- Involvement outside the classroom such as before- and after-school tutoring, extracurricular programs, and guidance of students' independent research.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Provide **signed letters of support** that reflect your teaching skills, leadership, and cultivation of student interest/understanding of science. Letters must include examples to demonstrate science teaching excellence and come from each of the following:

- Principal, vice principal, or area superintendent;
- On-campus colleague (teacher or peer); and
- Student or parent (current or former).

## PROFESSIONAL ESSAY

*(1,500-word maximum that addresses prompts below)*

- Describe your passions and beliefs about teaching as they pertain to your teaching philosophy. (Approx. 300 words)
- Explain what makes you an outstanding science teacher, how you demonstrate your beliefs about teaching in your teaching style, and include a personalized science-related classroom lesson and your assessment of its effectiveness. (Approx. 700 words)
- Provide lesson plan outcomes. How do you gauge what your students know and what they need to learn next? (Approx. 500 words)

## PORTFOLIO/SUPPORTING MATERIALS

*(Limit the portfolio to a reasonable length and make sure links work. Max individual file size: 20 MB.)*

Submit supporting materials that best demonstrate your science knowledge, exemplify your teaching philosophy, and display how you engage your students. We want to understand how you teach, so be specific. These items **must** contain a:

- One-page narrative explaining your portfolio items, with items listed in sequential order.
- High-quality, focused lesson plan you developed in one of these formats: PowerPoint, lab or field investigations, or a video not exceeding five minutes.

*Applications and submitted materials become the property of TMA. If you receive an award, TMA reserves the right to reproduce information/photos/other content from your application in promotional materials and on the TMA website.*

***Winning teachers and their schools receive generous cash prizes!***

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: JAN. 2, 2023**

**texmed.org/Teachers • SciTeacherAward@texmed.org**



Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards  
for Excellence in Science Teaching  
Physicians Caring for Texans



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# ERNEST AND SARAH BUTLER AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACHING

## *SCORING RUBRIC*

JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY: ☐ K-5 ☐ 6-8 ☐ 9-12

### ***EDUCATIONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

Evaluation Criteria	Exceptional	Highly Effective	Acceptable	Poor	Score
Consistent pursuit of formal continuing education and/or related avenues	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Involvement in community programs related to science education that goes beyond the call of duty	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Professional activities including association affiliations, awards and recognition, and leadership endeavors	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
<b>COMMENTS</b>					

### ***LETTERS OF SUPPORT***

Evaluation Criteria	Exceptional	Highly Effective	Acceptable	Poor	Score
Illustrate cultivation of student interest and understanding of science	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Demonstrate leadership that impacts science education beyond the classroom	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Describe community involvement that distinguishes the candidate from his or her peers	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Provide examples of excellence related to science	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
<b>COMMENTS</b>					

## PROFESSIONAL ESSAY

Evaluation Criteria	Exceptional	Highly Effective	Acceptable	Poor	Score
Demonstrates passion for teaching and learning	5 points	3 points	1 point	0 points	
Expresses desire to impact the lives of students/help them find their potential	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Includes examples of “excellence in science teaching” plus personal assessment of (1) instructional plan, (2) lesson plans, and (3) student outcome	5 points	3 points	1 point	0 points	
Describes how teacher stimulates students’ interest in and understanding of science	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points	
Explains how teacher challenges students’ problem-solving skills and invites them to actively participate (involves more than regurgitation of facts). Demonstrates how the applicant gauges what students know and what they still need to learn	5 points	3 points	1 point	0 points	
<b>COMMENTS</b>					

## PORTFOLIO/SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Evaluation Criteria	Exceptional	Highly Effective	Acceptable	Poor	Score
Show knowledge of science content	6 points	4 points	2 points	0 points	
Explain how the applicant exemplifies a creative and innovative approach to teaching	5 points	3 points	1 point	0 points	
Address scientific standards in lesson plans	5 points	3 points	1 point	0 points	
Demonstrate student engagement and student work product	4 points	3 points	2 points	0 points	
<b>COMMENTS</b>					

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(62 POINTS MAX)