



**JACKSONVILLE
PUBLIC
EDUCATION
FUND**

Powering Potential



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2018 DUVAL COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR:

THEIR **UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE** ON TEACHER QUALITY

What is a high-quality teacher?

Through the Annual Teacher of the Year EDDY Awards program, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund has access to the Duval County public school teacher each school nominates to represent them as the best of the best. From the 2017-2018 school-level Teachers of the Year, three key themes emerged to answer the question of what it means to be a high-quality educator. From their responses—a high-quality teacher should be able to (1) understand the individual needs of their students, (2) build strong relationships with students and their families and (3) drive positive academic results.

NEEDS

1

High-Quality Teachers **UNDERSTAND STUDENT NEEDS**

Most of the 92 school-level Teachers of the Year who responded to our survey talked about teachers having the ability to provide a holistic education that conveys the importance of academics, but also recognizes, and is sensitive to, the well-being of students beyond the classroom. Many times, it means that teachers are highly adaptable and responsive to the individual needs of each of their students academically and otherwise.

“A high-quality teacher knows when a lesson isn’t working and can change it up on the fly to respond to students’ needs.”

“A high-quality teacher understands that not everyone learns the same. They differentiate and they don’t let anything interrupt the process.”

“It is someone who understands how to both nurture a child’s academic and emotional/social development.”

“Being a high-quality teacher means teaching the whole child using best practices. A high-quality teacher should address the mental, physical and emotional needs of a student.”

“I believe a high-quality teacher knows her students—their strengths and weaknesses, their fears and struggles.”

“High-quality teachers use data daily to drive further instruction and differentiate.”





RELATIONSHIPS

2

High-Quality Teachers **BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS** with Students & Families

The teachers felt that a high-quality teacher is one who also builds strong relationships with the students and their families characterized by mutual understanding, trust, and a common goal.

"A high-quality teacher also takes time to talk to each student and attempts to build a relationship of respect and trust."

"A high-quality [teacher] is focused on student success, esteem and growth. He/she is continually researching and learning new ways to sharpen their practice. He/she builds a strong relationship with their students and their family to ensure all are supported."

"In addition, this teacher goes above and beyond to provide resources to the students and their families."

"I think the most important quality of a teacher is that one has a strong ability to earn the trust of young students."

"The teacher builds a relationship with the child, learns the child's interests and takes a personal stake in the child's current and future well-being."

"The best teachers, though, build relationships with students and help them build relationships with other students AND themselves. A student that values themself and others around them can do amazing things."

"He/she builds a strong relationship with their students, and their families to ensure all are supported."



"An educator that provides rigorous content, drives students to an instructional goal and provides all students with training to be successful in their current and upcoming grade level. An educator should also be able to provide student growth both academically and personally."

3

High-Quality Teachers **DRIVE ACADEMIC RESULTS**

The 2018 Teachers of the Year were absolutely clear and firm in their belief that a high-quality teacher is able to push their students academically. The consistent train of thought among them was that by properly addressing individual student needs and building the appropriate relationships, high-quality teachers could push students' ability to learn. Additionally, they believed that a high-quality teacher would be so invested in the success of their students that they would seek opportunities to learn from their colleagues and other ways to advance their knowledge.

"A high-quality teacher is an educator who strives to attain high standards for both themselves and their students. They are constantly growing and learning new practices to help grow their students."

"Being a high-quality teacher is to plan, implement and evaluate the way you teach through your students' growth and achievement."

"A high-quality teacher attends trainings to further equip her[self] or him[self] to do their best."



RESULTS

CELEBRATING HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS is top priority for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. Think of a teacher you know who is dedicated to meeting every student's needs, partnering effectively with parents and/or driving academic results. Celebrate that teacher today by sending a message via social media thanking them for that dedication using the **#JaxThanksATeacher** and tagging **@JaxPEF** as part of our soon to launch Teachers Are More campaign.

For more information, please email info@jaxpef.org.



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