



## **Amistad Commission's Exemplary Teacher Award**

The Amistad Commission's Exemplary Award Program was codified by the New Jersey Legislature and signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy on August 31, 2021. The Award is designed to promote teaching the Amistad curriculum in New Jersey schools, enhance the social studies literacy of students, and encourage the infusion of African American history into the social studies curriculum.

The intent of the award is to recognize and celebrate the work of exemplary **New Jersey teachers** who commit to furthering student knowledge of African American history and the contributions of African Americans to our society.

The Commission invites all New Jersey schools (districts, charters, and renaissance) to nominate teachers to be recognized for their efforts based on their development of exemplary lessons, units of study, or courses of study or other contributions that impact their school communities that implement the Amistad curriculum aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), and that may be replicated by other teachers.

From the list of nominees, the Award Committee will select two teachers to receive the Amistad Commission's Exemplary Teacher Award: One teacher representing grades **K-8** and one teacher representing grades **9-12**.

Each award recipient receives **\$2,500** in recognition of his or her extraordinary contributions. In addition, the recipient's school district will receive **\$2,500**. The funds are for the district's implementation of the Amistad Curriculum.

### **Eligibility:**

All K-12 teachers currently under contract of at least 60% in a New Jersey school district, charter school, and or a renaissance school.

## **THE AWARD PROCESS**

### **STEP 1: Nomination**

ANYONE—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the public—may nominate exceptional teaching of the Amistad curriculum in grades K-12. Nominations may be submitted for more than one teacher at each program level (**K-8** and **9-12**). Teachers may also nominate themselves. All submissions must include the teacher's full name, telephone number, email address; school and district information, and grade level and/or course.



## Documentation

Each nominee must submit:

- Summary of accomplishments within the past two years that provide evidence of infusion of the contributions of Africans and African Americans in the context of American History courses in Social Studies, World History, and other disciplines (Visual or Performing Arts, Language Arts Literacy, Science, World Languages, Math, etc.).
- Evidentiary documentation of exemplary lessons promoting the Amistad Curriculum:
  - o Lesson plans
  - o Student projects
  - o Videos
  - o School or district-level student-centered programs, projects, activities, or videos

Please submit all materials electronically to Amistad Commission Exemplary Award [Form](#) linked here: <https://forms.office.com/r/WwgZFnKRXF>

The deadline to submit a nomination form and supporting materials is **June 18, 2026**

## STEP 2: Selection

All applications undergo state-level committee review to determine which applicants best exemplify excellence in teaching that meet or exceed accepted state standards and the Amistad mandate. A Selection Committee will evaluate all submissions and select two finalists for the award.

After the selection process the winners will be notified and the Committee will recognize each award recipient at the end of the school year.

**The award will be presented at the 2026 Amistad Commission's Summer Institute at Kean University.**

If you have any questions, please contact us at:  
[amistadsp@doe.nj.gov](mailto:amistadsp@doe.nj.gov) or (609) 376-3997

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