



# 2014-15 Science Teacher Application

Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards  
for Excellence in Science Teaching

Physicians Caring for Texans

**Deadline: Dec. 31, 2014**

On behalf of the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Medical Association Foundation, Congratulations! A colleague, administrator, student, parent, or community member has nominated you as an outstanding science teacher in the great state of Texas. TMA encourages you to apply for an Excellence in Science Teaching Award by completing and returning the enclosed application with the required supporting materials.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- \$5,000 first place cash awards for one elementary, one middle school, and one high school teacher! And a \$2,000 resource grant for those teachers' schools!
- \$1,000 second place cash awards for one elementary, one middle school, and one high school teacher's science department!

## ELIGIBILITY

- Texas state-certified, full-time public and private school science teachers with a minimum of two years' classroom experience may apply.
- Teachers must be returning to teach during the 2015-16 school year.
- Previous recipients of this award may not reapply at the same award level.
- All areas of science are eligible.

## CRITERIA

- A personal commitment and enthusiasm for teaching science
- Innovative and motivational methods to cultivate student interest

## EVALUATION AND AWARDS PROCESS

- A panel of qualified individuals will screen and score all completed applications in February/March 2015.
- First place winners will receive half of their personal award check and the full school resource grant during an awards presentation in May 2015. The remainder of each award will be released in November 2015, upon receipt of a one-page report from the recipient discussing how the school resource grant was or will be utilized and the expected learning opportunities these purchases provide (including the estimated number of students reached).
- Second place winners will receive a check payable to their school in September 2015, upon receipt of a one-page report from the recipient discussing the future use of the funds and the expected learning opportunities these purchases provide (including the estimated number of students to be reached).

## Send your completed application and supporting materials by Dec. 31 to:

Attn: Gail Schatte  
Texas Medical Association  
401 W. 15th St.  
Austin, TX 78701-1680  
gail.schatte@texmed.org

Or apply and submit all required documents  
online at [www.texmed.org/teachers](http://www.texmed.org/teachers).

Once we receive your application, you will be sent a confirmation email.

By submitting your completed application and supporting materials, each teacher is eligible for a drawing! One in 50 applicants will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Amazon.com, with a maximum of 20 award winners. Winners of the drawing will be contacted by Jan. 31, 2015.



## Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching

Physicians Caring for Texans

**SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTATION BY DEC. 31, 2014  
ONLINE AT [WWW.TEXMED.ORG/TEACHERS](http://WWW.TEXMED.ORG/TEACHERS).**

Electronic submission is preferred, or send to:  
Attn: Gail Schatte  
Texas Medical Association  
401 W. 15th St.  
Austin, TX 78701-1680  
[gail.schatte@texmed.org](mailto:gail.schatte@texmed.org)

## Applications must include the following information in the order presented:

### **EDUCATIONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Required)**

List the following (including dates for all), in this order:

- Colleges, universities, and post-graduate studies, with degrees earned and dates attended;
- Teaching employment history, with time periods, grade levels, and subject areas;
- Professional association memberships, offices held, and other relevant activities;
- Continuing education completed;
- Meaningful science-related professional development sessions attended and presented;
- Professional development sessions attended and presented;
- Awards and other recognition;
- Grants; and
- Involvement outside the classroom through activities such as before- and after-school tutoring, extracurricular programs, guiding independent research experiences for students, or monitoring students.

### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT (Required)**

Include one (1) letter of support from each of the following that reflects your teaching skills, leadership, and other demonstrations of “excellence in science teaching” whereby you cultivate student interest/understanding of science and participate in community involvement. Letters must include specific examples of why you are considered outstanding.

- A principal, vice principal, or area superintendent;
- Colleague; and
- A student (current or former) or a parent (current or former).

### **PROFESSIONAL QUESTIONS (Two essays required. Maximum of 1,000 words each.)**

- Professional Biography: What influenced you to become a teacher? This should explain your passion for teaching.
- Philosophy of Teaching: Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding science teacher with specific examples or outcomes that point to “excellence in science teaching.” Describe the rewards you find in teaching. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

### **PORTFOLIO (Required. Please limit the portfolio to a reasonable length.**

#### **Max file size limit: 20 MB.)**

- Submit supporting materials that best demonstrate your own science knowledge, exemplify your philosophy of teaching, and display how you engage your students in science-related classroom lessons. These items must be in **electronic format**. We strongly suggest you include one high-quality focused lesson plan you developed and are proud to present. Defend the lesson, describing how it increases students’ scientific and/or engineering literacy, involves students in the scientific processes, and addresses science standards. The lesson should show student engagement and include the student work product. Additional acceptable items may include PowerPoint presentations, lab or field investigations, and video (not to exceed 10 minutes). Please mark your materials clearly and **provide a one-page narrative** explaining your portfolio items. These materials will be duplicated for the selection committee and will not be returned. No scrapbooks accepted.

**Thank you again for applying to the TMA Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching! TMA will notify recipients in April 2015.**



Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards  
for Excellence in Science Teaching

Physicians Caring for Texans

**SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTATION BY DEC. 31, 2014,  
ONLINE AT WWW.TEXMED.ORG/TEACHERS.**

Electronic submission is preferred, or send to:  
Attn: Gail Schatte  
Texas Medical Association  
401 W. 15th St.  
Austin, TX 78701-1680  
gail.schatte@texmed.org

# 2014-15 Science Teacher Application Form

The Texas Medical Association's **Ernest and Sarah Butler Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching** was created in 1990 to honor elementary, middle, and high school teachers who share their energy and enthusiasm for science through creative and innovative methods to cultivate student interest in medicine and science.

## ELIGIBILITY

All Texas state-certified, full-time public and private school science teachers with a minimum of two years' classroom experience are eligible to apply. Teachers must be returning to teach during the 2015-16 school year. Previous recipients of this award may not reapply in the same award category. All areas of science are eligible.

**AWARD LEVEL** *(Please check one.)*  Elementary (K-5)  Middle School (6-8)  High School (9-12)

## APPLICANT INFORMATION *(Please print legibly.)*

Name *(Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.)* \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Teaching Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (where best reached during daytime) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name *(Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.)* \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Upon receipt, all applications become the property of TMA. Applications will not be returned. If your application is selected to receive an award, TMA reserves the right to reproduce information/photos/other content in promotional materials and on the TMA website.

For more information or to apply online, visit [www.texmed.org/teachers](http://www.texmed.org/teachers),  
or call Gail Schatte at (800) 880-1300, ext. 1600.

