

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and various educational materials. A large white diagonal shape cuts across the image from the top left to the bottom right, serving as a background for the text.

# 2022 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Sabbatical Review

Willie Edward Taylor Carver Junior

# 2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor  
Kentucky



**Ashley Ritchie**  
Beechwood Elementary  
Beechwood Independent



**Hallie Booth**  
Ballyshannon Middle  
Boone County



**Willie Edward  
Taylor Carver Jr.**  
Montgomery County High  
Montgomery County



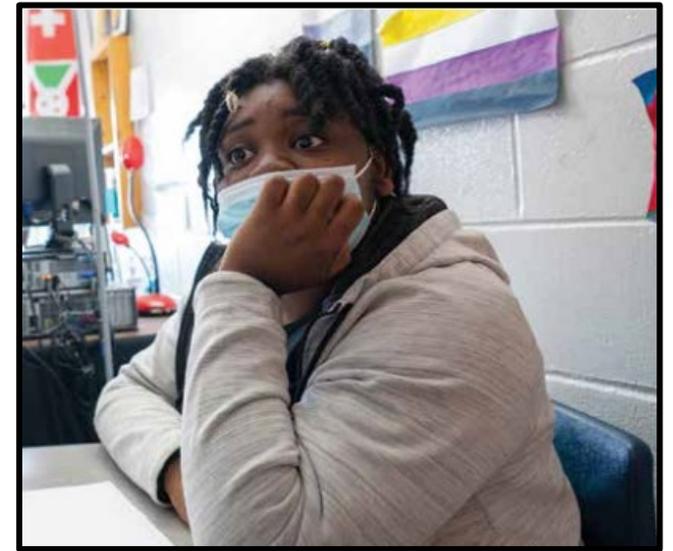


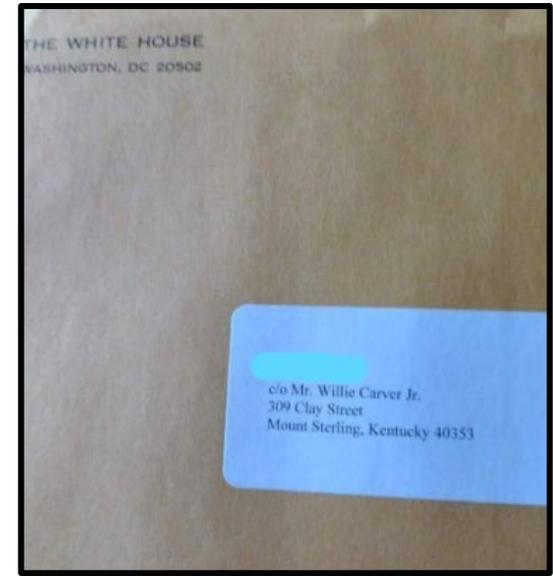








Photo credit: UPI.com





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## The cost for teachers to thrive is change



As a teacher, I am asked a similar question nearly daily:

"How do you still do it?"

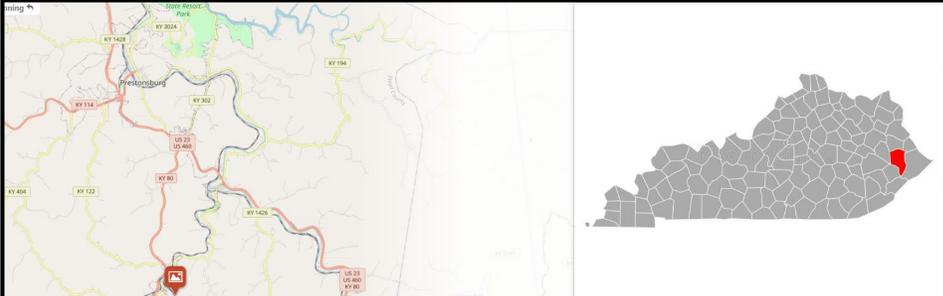
"Are you thinking of leaving?"

"Have you considered jobs in higher ed?"

The questions suggest that teaching isn't something anyone would want to do anymore and leaving is obvious.

In all fairness, the last few years have been difficult, as [Kentucky Commissioner of Education Jason F. Glass points out](#). Crowded classrooms have spread COVID-19. Quarantines have made it harder to connect with students and ensure their adequate mental health, let alone learning.

Willie Edward Taylor Carver Jr., 2022 Kentucky Teacher of the Year



<https://www.dreamstime.com/illustration/floyd-county-kentucky.html>  
 The 2022 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Willie Edward Taylor Carver, Jr., grew up in Froytown, a bottom on Left Beaver Creek in Floyd County, Kentucky.

### "UNDER THE PEWS" BY WILLIE EDWARD TAYLOR CARVER JR.

Little boys in country churches  
 can play with matchbox cars under the pews  
 because the grown-ups assume  
 that they're really too little to understand the preaching.  
 I held onto that matchbox rifle too long











