



Ann Marie Taylor

Ann Marie Taylor, the 2008 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, is currently the Professional Development Facilitator with Aiken County School District. She was appointed by Senator John Courson, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, as his education representative to the committee. She fills the expired term of Buffy Murphy, who served on the committee from 2006 to 2010. Taylor received her Bachelor of Arts and Behavioral Sciences degree in Criminal Justice from Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, MI. Her work with juvenile offenders following graduation inspired her to pursue a career in special education. She received a Master of Arts of Teaching from Francis Marion University, where she also obtained additional certification in teaching students with mental disabilities.

She is currently pursuing her doctorate in education. Prior to her year as Teacher of the Year, Taylor was a Special Education Teacher at Pine Tree Hill Elementary School in Camden, SC from 2004 to 2007. She also worked with the Kershaw County Adult Education Program and taught in schools in Lamar, SC and Florence. A native of Michigan, Taylor is active in the community serving on the Council for Exceptional Children and coordinating the Kershaw County Special Olympics. She organized the first Kershaw County, Branch of the Council for Exceptional Children. She served on the board of Leadership South Carolina from 2008 to 2009 and was nominated for the South Carolina Liberty Fellowship Award in 2009. Taylor also works as the Children's Ministry Director for Seacoast Church in Columbia. "I am honored to serve on the EOC and I take the role of sharing my teacher-leader voice very seriously," said Taylor. "Both personally and professionally, I am eager to learn and grow as I serve our South Carolina education system, our teachers, and most importantly, our students."