

Friends of Education Award

Recognizing Community Support for the Howard County Public School System

Howard County is a community that values education and cherishes its children. As a result, many Howard County community members, businesses, and organizations donate their time and talents in support of public education.

The Howard County Board of Education has established the Friends of Education Award to recognize and show appreciation for truly exemplary support for our students and schools and to increase awareness of the importance of community involvement to the achievement of the school system's Equity Framework.

Who does the award recognize?

The Friends of Education Award recognizes an individual, business, or organization for innovative or unique sustained contribution that:

- Directly support the school system's vision, mission, and commitments.
- Is significant in its scope. In the case of organizations, such as PTA's, the contribution *must be beyond the normal scope of activities.*

Who is eligible?

Any member of the Howard County community, any non-profit group, organization, or association, or business located in or serving Howard County who has not already been a recipient in the last ten (10) years, may be nominated for the Friends of Education Award. School system employees and previous award winners within the last 10 years are not eligible.

There are three categories:

- Individual
- Business
- Non-profit group, organization, or association

Who may nominate?

Any employee of the Howard County Public School System, Howard County resident or member of a group, organization, association, or business located in or serving Howard County may submit a nomination.

What is required for nomination?

Nomination applications for the Friends of Education Award may be obtained:

- By contacting the Board of Education at 410-313-1584.
- Through the HCPSS website <https://www.hcpss.org/board/friends-of-education/>
- www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/public From the Feature page, Select Documents then Friends of Education.

Nomination Process

Complete the nomination application & include **three (3) current** letters of recommendation that speak to the criteria.

Forward completed packets to:

Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Nomination Deadline

- Completed nomination packets are due by February 19, 2025.
- Nominees and recipients will be notified by March 5, 2025.
- Awards will be presented during the Board of Education meeting on April 10, 2025.

[The HCPSS Educational Equity Framework](#) consists of four elements: Belonging, Opportunity and Access, Instructional Excellence, and Engaged and Inspired Learners.

- BELONGING- All students, staff, and families experience belonging; and each person's physical, social, and emotional needs are met.
- OPPORTUNITY and ACCESS - All students, staff, and families can access pathways that expose them to high-quality learning experiences.
- INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE- All students and staff are provided with the resources necessary to deliver and experience high-quality instruction.
- ENGAGED AND INSPIRED LEARNERS - All students and staff are empowered to shape their teaching and learning experiences.