

A Fabulous Opportunity in 2019 for You to Nominate a Special Person or Program!

The MCCPTA Special Education Committee is seeking nominations that reflect outstanding contributions to the success of students with special needs by students, parents, educators and programs.

The Event

Each spring the MCCPTA Special Education Committee holds a recognition ceremony to honor educators, programs, parents, and students who foster acceptance and provide outstanding support to students with special needs in MCPS during the school year. Various guests include families, MCPS teachers and staff, community members, MCCPTA leadership, MCPS administrators, members of the Montgomery County Board of Education and the Montgomery County Council.

The Purpose

This ceremony is an important way for the special needs community to say thank you to those who through instinct, creativity, empathy, patience, and determination, help our children enjoy success. It is also a way to acknowledge the benefits of investing in programs for students with disabilities.

The Process

The MCCPTA Special Education Committee is soliciting nominations of students, parents, educators, and programs for recognition at this year's ceremony. A nomination form and a sheet describing the criteria for recognition can be found below. *We will begin accepting nominations immediately.* All nominations must be received no later than Friday, **March 22, 2019**. Nominations can be submitted by email attachment or in the body of an email to SpecialEd@mccpta.org

Any parent, administrator, educator, or student can submit nominations.

We strongly encourage electronic submissions.

If you are unable to submit an electronic nomination, you may send a completed nomination form (go to bottom of page) and a nominating statement, along with supporting statements to the MCCPTA office: Montgomery County Council of PTAs, PO Box 10754, Rockville, MD 20849. For additional information contact SpecialEd@mccpta.org

Criteria for Special Education Recognition

Each nomination should reflect at least one of the criteria listed below for the relevant category of Students, Parents, Staff and Programs. Supporting statements from Students, Parents, Administrators and/or other Educators should be included.

Students: Any student who has made an outstanding contribution to school objectives, programs, or activities in one or more of the following ways:

1. Actively participating in school programs that increase peer acceptance and support of individual differences

2. Providing direct assistance, friendship, and encouragement to students with special needs
3. Demonstrating leadership in student activities to promote a spirit of caring, belonging, and cooperation among the student body

Parents: A Special Education Chairperson or other parent who has made an outstanding contribution to school and/or community programs that benefit students with special needs in one or more of the following ways:

1. Disseminating valuable information to staff and/or parents
2. Planning and conducting staff and/or parent training programs
3. Providing support to school programs by organizing volunteers or providing direct in-school assistance
4. Providing support to parents through participation in group meetings, PTA functions, or IEP conferences

Educators: Any staff member who has provided consistently outstanding services to advance the success of students with special needs in at least one of the following ways:

1. Providing school leadership in developing or carrying out instructional or social practices to promote achievement and participation of students with special needs. (e.g. organizing a Special Needs Awareness Week)
2. Demonstrating teaching practices in the classroom (special education or regular education) which enable achievement and participation of students with special needs (e.g. classroom organization, differentiated instruction, instructional accommodations, appropriate test modifications, peer helping strategies, social skills development, management of behavior)

Programs: A school based program that has demonstrated outstanding results in promoting success of students with special needs through the cooperative efforts of school administration, regular staff, special education staff, parents and students.

2018 – 2019 Special Education Recognition Nomination Form

1. Complete all blocks below.
2. Write a nominating statement explaining how the nominee has contributed to the success of students with special needs, and why the nominee deserves recognition. Your statement should provide specific details that clearly reflect one or more of the criteria for the nominated category, as provided under the Nomination Criteria section. Supporting statements from students, parents, and/or other educators should be included for all categories!
3. Submit by e-mail – by close of business on Friday, **March 22, 2019**.

