

MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Dr. Cory M. Murphy, Executive Director
Office of Teaching and Leading

Date: Monday, November 8, 2021

Subject: 2022 Parent of the Year Selection

The Mississippi Department of Education strongly promotes the active involvement of parents in their children's education in all Mississippi public schools. It is undeniable that regardless of socioeconomic status, parent involvement and support have a powerful impact, at minimum, on our student's academic achievement, attendance, behavior, social functioning, and mental health. The critical importance of parent involvement in Mississippi public schools was acknowledged by the members of our legislature with the enactment of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-73. This law authorized the Mississippi Board of Education to establish an awards program to publicly recognize each year the dedication and commitment of parents who have partnered with their local schools to help ensure the success of their school improvement efforts.

The Parent of the Year Program invites each local school district to select an outstanding parent who has made a significant commitment to their local school through their dedication to students and contribution of their generous gifts of time and other resources. The local school district's candidate for Mississippi Parent of the Year should be submitted to our office using the attached application form. A finalist will be selected from each the four Mississippi Congressional District, and from these finalists, the *2022 Mississippi Parent of the Year* will be named.

Thank you for promoting parent involvement in your local school district. We appreciate your continued participation in efforts to acknowledge these outstanding parents and the important role they play in the success of our schools. Should you have questions regarding this process, please contact Mrs. Sandra Hilliard at (601) 359-3513 or shilliard@mdek12.org. **Applications must be postmarked by January 25, 2022.**

Enclosure