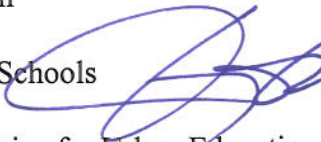


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

April 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: MCPS Named Finalist for Broad Prize for Urban Education

I am very pleased to inform you that Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has been named one of five finalists for the prestigious Broad Prize for Urban Education. MCPS was chosen as a finalist from a pool of 100 school districts. Eligible districts include the nation's largest systems and those that serve a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students and students who are members of minority subgroups.

MCPS is the first school district in the Washington region to be named a finalist for this prestigious award. A district cannot apply or be nominated for the Broad Prize. A review board comprised of education experts chooses the finalists based on publicly available data.

Our designation as a finalist provides MCPS graduates from the class of 2011 with access to at least \$250,000 in college scholarships. These scholarships are given not just to students who have the highest grades, but also to those who have demonstrated steady improvement throughout their schooling and have a strong desire to go to college. While the \$250,000 is outstanding, the district that wins the Broad Prize receives \$1 million in college scholarships for its students, so we will prepare thoroughly for a strong performance in the next phase of the evaluation process to secure that much-needed money for our students.

The winning district will be named on October 19, 2010, during a ceremony at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The other finalists for the 2010 prize are Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, North Carolina; Gwinnett County Public Schools, Georgia; and Socorro Independent School District and Ysleta Independent School District, both in Texas. The Broad Prize was established in 2002 by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, which seeks to advance public good in education, science and the arts.

As with any recognition we receive as a district, much of the credit belongs to our outstanding staff and their dedication and determination to provide a world-class education to all of our students, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. As Board members, you also should take tremendous pride in this award, as you have provided the policies, programs and resources our staff and students require to achieve these excellent outcomes.

Please join me in celebrating this wonderful news with the MCPS community.

JDW:bls
Copy to:
Executive Staff