

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RISING STAR TEACHER AWARD
2025-2026

AWARD OVERVIEW

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Rising Star Teacher Award honors a full-time pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 teacher who is in their first FIVE years of teaching. The Rising Star award winner is a teacher who demonstrates a passion for the success of all students, creatively engages students in learning and contributes to a strong, positive partnership among students, staff, parents and the community. The winner will be recognized at a celebration in the spring and will receive a monetary award.

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

The nominee:

- ☐ Is a current full-time pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 teacher in MCPS.
- ☐ Is currently in their first FIVE years of teaching.
- ☐ Is not a previous recipient of this award.

(Previous nominees who did not win may be re-nominated.)

NOMINATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Nomination Packet Cover Sheet
- ☐ Professional Biography
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Evidence Supporting the Award Criteria
- ☐ Letters of Support (no more than four)

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about this award, contact Arelis Burke at Arelis_A_Burke@mcpsmd.org

NOMINATION DETAILS

The nomination package must include the following materials arranged in the order listed below. Submission documents must use the Times New Roman 12-point font.

Nomination Cover Sheet

The cover sheet template is included in this document. The nomination cover sheet must be completed in full and include all designated signatures.

Professional Biography

A 200-word biography written to highlight the nominee's professional accomplishments.

Resume

The resume should include:

- Complete work history – including previous positions held and dates worked • Educational background – including degrees earned, majors and universities/colleges attended • Honors received and/or other significant achievements

Evidence Supporting the Award Criteria

A document, maximum of two pages, that details the nominee's work in the three award criteria areas: •

- Passion for the success of all students
- Creatively engages students in learning
- Contributes to strong, positive partnerships among students, staff, parents and the community

Letters of Support

A maximum of four letters of support detailing why this teacher should be the MCPS Rising Star Teacher, one of which must be from the nominee's current principal. The letters of support should include compelling information that showcases the teacher's positive impact on students and the school community. Each letter should be no longer than one page.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION

Nomination Deadline

All nomination packets must be received **by Monday, December 29, 2025**. Only complete packets will be considered. Nomination packets received after the deadline will not be considered.

How to Submit

Nomination packets must be emailed to Arelis A. Burke, Division of Family & Community Engagement at Arelis_A_Burke@mcpsmd.org subject line: MCPS Rising Star Teacher Award.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nominations may be submitted by staff, students, former students, parents, administrators or the general public. Teachers may not nominate themselves. Nominees may be asked to contribute to the development of the nomination packet. Nominators should work with school and community members to create a strong application package.

A committee of Montgomery County Public School administrators will review all nominations and recommend finalists. Finalists may be observed in the classroom and interviewed by the selection committee. The selection committee will recommend a nominee to receive the MCPS Rising Star Teacher Award.

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NOMINATION PACKET COVER SHEET

Nominee's Information

Name: _____

Employee ID #: _____

Current Position: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number _____

Nominee's School Information

School Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Principal Name: _____

Nominator's Information

Name: _____

Position/Role: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominator's Signature

Nominee's Signature