

MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Ken Stamps, Staff Officer III
Office of Accreditation

Date: February 20, 2018

Subject: ***2018 Parent of the Year Program***

The State Board 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 has a powerful effect on the success of our schools, the improvement of student performance, and largely, the extent of positive support that schools receive from the community. The critical importance and positive impact of parent involvement upon our schools was acknowledged with the enactment of MS Code Ann. § 37-3-73. This law authorized the State 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 insure the success of their school improvement efforts.

The Parent of the Year Program invites each district to select an outstanding parent who has made a significant commitment to their local school through their dedication to students and their generous gifts of time and other resources. The district's candidate for Mississippi Parent of the Year should be submitted to our office using the enclosed application form. Applications will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of parents, teachers, and school administrators. A finalist will be selected from each Congressional District, and from these finalist, the *2018 Mississippi Parent of the Year* will be named.

Thank you for promoting parent involvement in your district that results in substantial benefits for everyone. We appreciate your efforts to acknowledge these parents and the important role they play in the success of our schools. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact me at (601) 359-3764 or kstamps@mdek12.org. The deadline for receipt of applications is 5:00 p.m., March 30, 2018.

Enclosure

c: Paula A. Vanderford, Ph.D.



2018 Mississippi Parent of the Year Program Application

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

MARCH 30, 2018 5:00 p.m.

Parent of the Year Nomination
Office of Accreditation
Mississippi Department of Education
P. O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

(attach picture)

(please type)

Nominee's Name

School District

County

Congressional District (1, 2, 3, or 4) _____

Telephone _____

Home Address

Employment

Children's names, ages, occupations (if students, list name of school and grade level)

If married, spouse's name and occupation

Superintendent's signature _____
(Required)

Date _____

Nominee's School Improvement Efforts (*Maximum length: two double-spaced pages*)

Describe the school improvement efforts of the Parent of the Year nominee in his/her school district. Include awards and other special recognitions received. Describe involvement in service-oriented activities, including categories of involvement (such as homeroom activities, PTA, district work, community work, financial involvement, athletics, etc.). Be specific in describing projects, awards and recognitions. Make sure all titles of awards, projects and programs are explained. Include dates of involvement, current and past.

Letters of Support (*Limit of three letters*)

Include three letters of support from among any of the following: superintendent, principal, colleague, PTA/PTO president, student or civic leader. Please attach to application.

Please note:

- Submit one (1) original and four (4) copies **stapled** of the completed application form and the three letters of support.
- Provide all information requested in the application form. Do not change or add to the application in any way.
- When describing projects, awards and other recognitions, be sure to describe in detail and make sure all titles of programs and awards are explained.
- Limit your answers to two double-spaced pages as requested. In order to provide all applicants with an equal opportunity, only the number of pages requested will be accepted. Material beyond the first two pages, cannot be presented to the Selection Committee.
- The original application must include one photograph for publicity purposes. Attach one picture to the original application. Please **do not include a picture on the four copies** of the application. If selected Parent of the Year, additional pictures may be requested.
- The application package must be received by mail in the Office of Accreditation by **5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2018.**

2018 Parent of the Year Timeline

February 20, 2018 Applications are provided to school district superintendents

March 30, 2018 Nominations are due in the Office of Accreditation

April 16-20, 2018 The Selection Committee meets and selects the *2018 Parent of the Year*

June 21, 2018 *2018 Parent of the Year* is recognized by the State Board of Education