Excellence in School Psychological Services Recognition Program—Proficient
Adaptable Press Release

January 5th, 2021

The Howard County Public School System is pleased to announce that our school community has received national recognition for the quality of the school psychological services provided to our students. In December 2020, our school psychological services program and staff received the recognition of Proficient Status from the National Association of School Psychologists’ (NASP) Excellence in School Psychological Services (ESPS) Recognition Program. This recognition reflects the organizational commitment and hard work of Howard County school psychologists who support the learning and mental health needs of all students so that they can thrive in school, at home, and throughout life.

School psychologists in Howard County promote educationally and psychologically healthy environments for all children and adolescents by implementing research-based, effective programs that prevent problems, enhance independence and promote optimal learning. School Psychologists are available to support all students. School Psychologists provide consultation, prevention, intervention, assessment, and professional development.

The national ESPS program recognizes districts who have achieved or are working toward delivery of high quality and sustainable school psychological practices as defined in the NASP Practice Model. Submissions to the program go through a rigorous review process from a team of trained reviewers, assessing the application based on 5 potential recognition categories (No Designation, Emerging, Promising, Proficient, and Exemplary).

Specifically, Proficient Status is awarded to districts that provide evidence that school psychologists are providing a broad range of services, and that there is a solid foundation and significant progress toward implementing a sustainable, system-wide infrastructure to implement all 6 Organizational Principles articulated in the NASP Practice Model. These Organizational Principals support school psychologists’ ability to provide a comprehensive range of services to improve students’ well-being and academic outcomes. We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our school psychologist team as a result of this process.

Howard County’s ESPS Recognition is effective for 5 years, through December 31, 2025. Importantly, the ESPS program provides a framework for continued improvement in service delivery overtime. This includes the effort to continue working toward meeting the national recommended ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students which will help increase access to needed services for our students and families.

We are committed to doing this work because our school psychologists are critical to the positive outcomes of our students, families, and schools.

Congratulations on the successful efforts of our Howard County school psychologists for their Excellence in School Psychological Services national recognition.

For more information on the ESPS Recognition Program visit: www.nasponline.org/ESPS or contact NASP Director of Policy and Practice, Stacy Skalski at askalski@naspweb.org