

Dr. Statham, directors and area/cluster PTA leaders,

CONGRATULATIONS on our seven (7) MCPS schools that have started the process to become [NATIONAL PTA SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE](#)!

Bells Mill ES, Churchill HS, Eastern MS, Forest Knolls MS, Meadow Hall ES, Parkland MS, and Piney Branch ES.

This designation recognizes effective partnerships between schools and PTAs to improve family engagement, which is well known as a critical factor to student success and achievement.

We know that our principals have many responsibilities educating our children and hope you'll emphasize that this is not something "extra" to do. The goals of this yearlong program perfectly align with existing MCPS expectations for schools to engage with families. (See attached testimonials from principals and PTA leaders who were recognized this year).

School and family surveys are already underway to identify specific needs in each school. **Results are due with the initial application November 1 and *required*** to continue the program. Please encourage administrators and PTA leaders to work together to address these areas, and report on their progress in the final application due next spring.

MCPS has only ever had one School of Excellence - Benjamin Banneker MS for 2015-2017. A huge banner still hangs proudly in the front hallway. I was the lead for that effort and would love to see another MCPS school recognized. I've committed to mentoring our 7 PTA leaders through this process and am also happy to answer any questions our principals may have.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Tracie Potts

Vice President of Administration, Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA)
Maryland PTA Family and Community Engagement chair
National PTA Family Engagement Fellow
National PTA Board of Directors