



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and Community Outreach
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204
443.809.5908 www.bcps.org

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CONTACT: Dept. of Communications/Community Outreach, 443.809.5908
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Franklin Elementary ESOL teacher chosen as Baltimore County's new Teacher of the Year for 2022-23 *Alicia Amaral Freeman selected from among six finalists*

TOWSON, MD. – Alicia Amaral Freeman, an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher at Franklin Elementary School in Reisterstown, was named the 2022-23 Teacher of the Year for Baltimore County Public Schools today during a celebration of the county's more than 9,000 educators.

Freeman was selected from among six finalists from across the county who were honored by BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams, Board of Education of Baltimore County Vice Chair Rod McMillion, and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski at the 2022 Teacher of the Year celebration. The ceremony at the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology was the first time since 2019 that the school system was able to celebrate the teachers of the year in person.

"Congratulations to Ms. Freeman, to all of our amazing finalists, and to each of our 159 Teacher of the Year nominees and their thousands of colleagues who, every day, demonstrate grace, determination, and excellence as they prepare our children for the future," said Dr. Williams. "Baltimore County is fortunate to have not only a talented and dedicated teaching force, but one that has gone extra miles this year to make the return to school safe, productive, and meaningful for our students."

Besides Freeman, this year's finalists included Zack Davis, a Grade 4 teacher from Logan Elementary; Tracey Dowling, a mathematics teacher and department chair from Overlea High School; Brent Driessen, a Grade 4/5 teacher at Deep Creek Elementary; Muriel Olowokakoko, a

Grade 4 teacher at Powhatan Elementary; and Heather Young, a reading specialist at Charlesmont Elementary.

An ESOL teacher at Franklin since 2021, Freeman also teaches at Reisterstown Elementary and the Chatsworth School. She has had a varied and deep career teaching in both Baltimore County and Baltimore City schools. Following a six-year career as a Spanish and ESOL teacher in Baltimore City schools, Freeman worked as an admissions director and principal at the dual-language Archbishop Borders School in Baltimore before coming to BCPS in 2019. She earned bachelor's degrees in both women's studies and in visual art from Barnard College of Columbia University and a Master of Arts degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Notre Dame of Maryland University.

"I am proud to work with immigrant students and families," Freeman says. "In them I see my grandmother, ashamed of her lack of access to education, and my grandfather, a janitor in a public school. I am proud to be their granddaughter, helping to cultivate this next diverse generation of new Americans."

The BCPS Teacher of the Year was chosen by a committee composed of BCPS administrators, staff, students, TABCO representation, and the current BCPS Teacher of the Year and Maryland Teacher of the Year Brianna Ross.

The 2022-23 BCPS Teacher of the Year program is supported by a generous array of education partners, including The American College of Education, THE AVENUE at White Marsh, The Education Foundation of BCPS, Inc., First Financial Federal Credit Union, Flowers & Fancies, NorthBay Adventure Camp, NTA Life A Horace Mann Company, and The Padonia Park Club.

The BCPS Teacher of the Year will represent the school system and its more than 9,000 educators in the Maryland state Teacher of the Year program.

(Note: A photograph of Ms. Freeman is attached to this news release.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).