



NEWS RELEASE

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Alicia Amaral Freeman of Franklin Elementary School named finalist for 2022-2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year

Statewide winner to be announced Oct. 6 on MPT2

TOWSON, MD. – Alicia Amaral Freeman, a teacher of English learners at Franklin Elementary School in Reisterstown and Baltimore County Public Schools’ Teacher of the Year, has been named one of seven finalists for 2022-2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Freeman learned of the honor from BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams, who surprised the educator at her school today with flowers, balloons, and well wishes.

“We are so proud of Ms. Freeman and the important work she does every day for so many Baltimore County children,” Dr. Williams said. “She represents the very best of Baltimore County’s incredible teaching corps, and we are delighted she is able to bring her talent, her passion for teaching and learning, and her advocacy for English-learning children to a statewide stage.”

According to a Maryland State Department of Education news release about the finalists, Freeman “realized her life’s passion for teaching English to children when as a child she experienced her Portuguese grandmother struggling to help her with her schoolwork.”

Freeman is the second consecutive Baltimore County educator to become a finalist in the Maryland Teacher of the Year program; last year, Brianna Ross of Deer Park Middle Magnet School went on to become Maryland’s Teacher of the Year for 2021-22.

An English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher at Franklin since 2021, Freeman also teaches at Glyndon Elementary. 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. A graduate of Barnard College of Columbia University and of Notre Dame of Maryland University, she is determined to support immigrant children through education.

“I am proud to work with immigrant students and families,” Freeman said in her application earlier this year for Baltimore County’s Teacher of the Year competition. “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 2022-2023 Maryland Teacher of the Year will be announced on Thursday, October 6, at 8 p.m. in a 30-minute Maryland Teacher of the Year television special airing on MPT2, as well as [MPT Video](#).

According to MSDE, finalists were selected by a panel of judges representing key Maryland education organizations, principals, teachers, school boards, teacher unions, and representatives from higher education. All finalists were assessed on a rigorous set of state and national criteria including instructional abilities; collaboration with colleagues, students, and families; community connections; leadership and innovation in and out of the classroom; and the ability to articulate education issues and beliefs.

Presenting sponsors for the Maryland Teacher of the Year Program are McDonald’s® Family of Baltimore and Northrop Grumman Corporation. Platinum sponsors are Maryland Public Television, NTA Life/Horace Mann, and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company. Gold sponsors include Bank of America, the Maryland State Education Association, and WJZ-13.

The selected Maryland Teacher of the Year will compete for the esteemed National Teacher of the Year Award. Maryland’s Teacher of the Year will also spend the coming year as an educational speaker and advisor in Maryland.

(Editor’s note: A photo of Freeman accompanies this release.)

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