

MINNEAPOLIS EDUCATOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Overview

The Minneapolis Educator Leadership Awards (MELA) were created to recognize Minneapolis Public schools (MPS) staff for their leadership outside of the classroom or defined job duties. We hope to recognize and elevate hardworking professionals who go above and beyond to educate our children and enhance the educational experience.

Candidates for the award are nominated by their peers, and a committee of teachers, administrators, and support staff actively working in MPS selects the finalists.

Finalists have the opportunity to create a proposal for up to \$10,000 in funding for a one- or two-year grant to implement a classroom or school-based project. The committee awards \$75,000 in grants annually.

Eligibility Requirements

Work full- or part-time with students in a Title 1 MPS school

2017 Program Dates

- Initial committee meeting: January 12 from 5pm-6pm
- **Nominations Live:** February 6 to March 6
- **Finalist Selection:** March 16 from 5pm-7pm
- **Finalist Applications Due:** April 17
- Application Review: May 2 from 5pm-7pm
- Award Ceremony: Evening of May 15

Nomination Questions (on MELA website beginning February 6)

1. How does the person you are nominating (the nominee) demonstrate leadership outside the classroom?
2. How does the nominee keep students at the center of his/her leadership development?
3. What evidence exists that the nominee is respected by his/her colleagues?
4. How does the work of the nominee show an emphasis on educational equity?
5. How has the nominee demonstrated an ability to build relationships with others from diverse backgrounds?
6. How do you know your nominee?

Program Process

Nominations close on March 6. AchieveMpls will distribute blind copies of nominations and a scorecard to the selection committee. The committee reads and scores the nominations, submitting scores the morning of March 16. AchieveMpls will rank order the scores and bring copies to the finalist selection meeting.

Once selected, finalists are contacted and are invited to submit a proposal for funding.

Proposals are due on April 17. AchieveMpls will distribute blind copies of proposals, a second scorecard and rubric to the selection committee. The committee reads and scores proposals and submits scores by May 2. AchieveMpls will rank order committee scores and bring copies to the application review meeting.

The committee will make recommendations for grant awards. All final decisions are made by the Graves Foundation Board. An awards ceremony will be held on May 15 to celebrate the recipients.