

Parent Involvement Matters Award (PIMA) Program

January 2012

<p>What is the Parent Involvement Matters Award (PIMA) Program?</p>	<p>PIMA is an annual <u>and</u> the only State awards program of its kind in the nation to highlight parents who, through their own time and efforts, have made major contributions to public education in Maryland. Its goal is not only to reward and highlight the positive impact parent involvement can have on schools, but also to encourage all parents to become involved in whatever way they can.</p>
<p>How are candidates nominated?</p>	<p>Parents (and others with legal responsibility for a child) can be nominated by school officials and administrative personnel, parents, community supporters, and/or students. Nominees must demonstrate parent involvement in one or in multiple areas.</p> <p>There are three levels of the PIMA process – in the <i>first level</i>, twenty-four local semifinalists are chosen, one from each local school system – in the <i>second level</i>, five finalists are chosen from the semifinalist level from their outstanding involvement – in the <i>third level</i>, the final statewide winner is chosen from the finalist level for their exemplary contributions to Maryland public education.</p> <p>All 24 semi-finalists, along with local superintendents, school administrators, elected officials, state and local dignitaries, and families attend an awards gala where the statewide winner is announced.</p>
<p>What are the areas of parent involvement identified in which nominees are judged?</p>	<p>The award nomination process outlines five areas of parent involvement, based on a nationally-recognized framework for family involvement that includes: <i>communication</i>; <i>volunteerism</i>; <i>learning</i>; <i>decision making</i>; and <i>community collaboration</i>.</p> <p>The PIMA slogan is “Choose Your Seat. Get Involved” because there are as many ways to become involved as there are parents and legal guardians.</p>
<p>Who sponsors the annual PIMA program?</p>	<p>The annual Parent Involvement Matters Award Program is sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education and a variety of corporate sponsors who all believe parent involvement to be the single most important factor that leads to student success.</p>
<p>What are some of the benefits of sponsorship?</p>	<p>Corporate sponsors receive public recognition through various communications that include: media alerts announcing the nomination process and the event; press releases announcing the semi-finalists, the finalists and the PIMA winner; stage appearance at the gala event; acknowledgment in the event program/brochure; and networking with local elected officials, superintendents, U.S. Department of Education and National PTA representatives, and more than 200 attendees.</p>
<p>Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>For additional information about the Parent Involvement Matters Award Program that recognizes excellence in Maryland public education, go to www.marylandpublicschools.org/pima, or call Barbara Scherr or Young-Chan Han at 410.767.6756.</p>