



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *lm Lowery*  
**DATE:** March 24, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Recognition of Maryland's 2014-2015 Milken National Educator

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**BACKGROUND:**

On January 28, 2015, Michael Milken, Founder of the Milken Family Foundation, and other dignitaries joined Dr. Jack Smith in announcing to a surprised teacher at Yellow Springs Elementary School in Frederick County, that she had been selected as a winner of the prestigious Milken National Educator Award. The announcement took place at an assembly with the entire student body, District Superintendent Theresa Alban, and numerous central office and Frederick County officials.

Maryland has had a partnership with the Milken Family Foundation for twenty-two years, and has successfully identified fifty-nine Maryland educators who have won the Milken prize, a non-restricted cash award of \$25,000. With this year's honoree, the Milken Foundation will have contributed \$1,475,000 to Maryland's Milken National Educators. Each year, the Maryland State Board of Education honors the newly selected teacher.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This year's recipient is **Margaret (Maggie) Hawk**, a first grade teacher at Yellow Springs Elementary School in Frederick County. Baltimore City College in Baltimore City. She will be accompanied by her principal – Sue Krieger, Superintendent Alban, her husband Tim Hawk and parents Ann and Ric Adams.

The recipient will be introduced and a brief video will be shown capturing the excitement of the surprise announcement made in January. Dr. Alban and Mrs. Krieger will commend Maggie who will then speak briefly about the personal and professional significance of this recognition.

**ACTION:**

Our new Milken National Educator will be presented the Milken National Educator crystal obelisk and an MSDE/State Board Citation. Commemorative photos will be taken. State Board members will have an opportunity to congratulate the winner and her colleagues.

Attachment

# **Maggie Hawk (MD '14)**

## **Teacher**

Yellow Springs Elementary School  
Frederick, MD

**Subject(s) taught:** General Elementary

**Grade(s):** 1

## **Biographical Information**

When Maggie Hawk graduated from Randolph Macon College, she couldn't wait to return to Frederick, Maryland and teach at Yellow Springs Elementary School where she had been a student. Learning did not come easy for her as a child, however, due to struggles with dyslexia, a developmental reading disorder. Hawk overcame her challenges and became a good student through hard work, determination, and the support of her family and teachers. So when she says all students can and will learn, she means it.

As a first-grade teacher, Hawk has built an ideal learning environment by combining solid data, effective use of technology and a collaborative teaching approach combined with an unflagging work ethic and a commitment to connect with each student. Students with academic or behavioral difficulties routinely blossom in her class, and every student exceeds the high expectations set for them. Whether co-teaching with other specialists to meet student IEP needs or supporting students who already excel to greater heights, Hawk's students consistently leave her class above grade-level in core subjects, confident and ready to learn more. Hawk is committed to using technology and the widest variety of traditional and innovative learning techniques to help each student deeply understand the material.

It's not uncommon to hear students saying they want to grow up and become a teacher "just like Mrs. Hawk!" It's also not unusual for students in her classroom to applaud the success of their peers. This behavior does not come naturally. Teaching life's lessons is second nature to this dedicated teacher.

It seems everyone has a "Mrs. Hawk story" about her care and attention in support of student learning. There was the student whose mother was deployed to Iraq. Maggie created a video of the child in the classroom and mailed it overseas. There were the students with severe disabilities who overcame their challenges to make significant academic progress. There's the student she's mentored for years and who lives with an elderly great-grandmother.

Hawk's kind intervention enabled all these students and many more to continue learning with their peers despite disruptions or challenges in their lives. In addition, she takes turns joining each student in the class for lunch to get to know the "whole person." Her warmth and fortitude provide valuable life lessons that profoundly reinforce the academic curriculum for the entire class, a collaborative learning community that supports and celebrates together through challenges and successes.