

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year



Purpose

Starting this year and annually going forward, the State Board will partner with MSEA to recognize Maryland's Education Support Professionals. Mr. Anthony Janey, a Baltimore County Public Schools' special education paraeducator at Pikesville Middle School, is MSEA's 2026 ESP of the Year.

Background

"Anthony Janey's passion for serving students with diverse learning and developmental needs began at the age of 16, when he started volunteering at Kennedy Krieger Institute and supporting children and families in the community. Throughout his career, Anthony has worked to ensure that students with disabilities receive the individualized support, encouragement, and opportunities they need to succeed. He believes every child deserves to be valued, included, and empowered to reach their fullest potential.

Anthony is also the founder and president of Our Children Matter Corporation, a nonprofit organization established in 2019 that supports children and families through community outreach and assistance. His dedication to education extends beyond the classroom through his advocacy for Education Support Professionals and his commitment to strengthening public education. Anthony also received recognition from the Maryland General Assembly for his service and contributions to the community. Anthony continues to advocate for students, families, and fellow education professionals, guided by his belief that every child matters and that meaningful change begins with compassion, service, and action. He is honored to receive this State Department of Education Citation and remains committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of Maryland's children and families."

Action

Information Only

Attachments

- MSEA PowerPoint

MSEA EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (ESP) OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

October 29, 2026

Paul Lemle, MSEA President



WHO IS...
ANTHONY JANEY?





Meet Anthony Janey

Inaugural State ESPOY and MSEA's 2026-2027 ESPOY

Anthony Janey

Special Education Paraeducator

Pikesville Middle School

Baltimore County Public Schools

Education Support Professionals of Baltimore County (ESPBC)

An educator, mentor, community advocate and union leader dedicated to helping every child succeed.





Anthony's Impact Beyond the Classroom

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Founder and President, *Our Children Matter Corporation*

Founded in 2019, this nonprofit serves children, young adults and families throughout Baltimore County and Baltimore City.

- **200,000+** Pounds of food distributed
- **7,200+** Families assisted through food programs
- **700+** Students and young adults provided educational resources
- **250+** Families of children with special needs assisted





STRONG **ESP**
STRONG SCHOOLS





Congratulations, Anthony Janey!
2026 ESP of the Year

Strong ESPs. Strong Schools.

Thank you for your extraordinary commitment to Maryland's students, families, colleagues, and communities.





We appreciate the partnership



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