



Hidalgo County Head Start Program
1901 W. State Hwy 107, McAllen TX 78504
(956) 383-0706 | hchsp.org

Date: February 12, 2025
To: Policy Council Members
From: Consuelo Casas, Chief Early Education Officer
CC: Irma Peña, Executive Director
Subject: Head Start Teacher of the Year Initiative

Policy Council Members:

We are excited to announce the first annual Hidalgo County Head Start Program **Teacher of the Year** initiative. The Head Start Program wants to honor exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled teachers whose work inspires children, parents, colleagues, and the community. This initiative will be in two (2) phases.

Phase I

- **Campus Teachers of the Year:** The program will recognize the excellence in teaching that exists on every Head Start campus. Teachers with a minimum of 3 years in the teaching profession may apply for this recognition. The campus directors will place the names of the teachers that meet the criteria on a ballot and have the teachers mark their selection by secret ballot. The campus director will then count the ballots and submit the name of the PreK-3 and PreK-4 winner. Campus Teachers of the Year will be recognized and awarded:
 - Campus Teacher of the Year parking space at their campus
 - Qualify to be selected as the Program Teacher of the Year
 - Attend the Teacher of the Year Banquet – Where the Program Teacher of the Year will be announced

Phase II

- **Program Teachers of the Year – PreK 3 and PreK 4:** The Campus Teachers of the Year will be eligible to apply for this recognition. The Teacher of the Year selection committee consisting of three highly-qualified and respectable judges will read the Campus Teacher of the Year applications and select the PreK-3 and PreK-4 Program Teacher of the Year winner. The Program PreK 3 and PreK 4 Teachers will be announced at the Teacher of the Year Banquet and will be recognized and awarded:
 - Program Teacher of the Year – Parking Space at their Campus
 - Attend the Teacher of the Year Banquet
 - Each PreK 3 & PreK 4 Teacher of the Year will receive a \$2000 Honorarium (stipend), and \$2000 for their Classroom
 - Both PreK 3 & PreK 4 Teachers of the Year will attend the National Head Start Association Conference in May 2025 with all expenses paid.

Campus Teacher of the Year		
Campus	PreK-3 Nominees	PreK-4 Nominees
Alvarez	Daisy Marin	Victoria Oviedo
Camarena	Laura E. Ibañez	Graciela Hibarguen
Chapa	Dalia Ochoa	Cristina Reyna
Donna	Alicia Covarrubias	Channelle De Los Rios
Edinburg	Martha Cavazos	Monica Alaniz
Edinburg North	Denise Jimenez	Jazmin Lozano
Escandon	Araceli Acevedo	Roxanna Gonzalez
Farias	Dahlia Gonzalez	Matiana Garza
Guerra	Maria Gloria	Kathleen Torres
JRG		Cynthia Martinez
MEL	Marlen Garza	Izette Alaniz
Mission	Bianca Zubiria	Viviana Carmona
Monte Alto		Maria Ramirez
Palacios		Melba Gonzalez
Salinas-Mission	Edith Hernandez	Julissa Zarate
Sam Houston		Yvette Benavidez
Sam Fordyce	Jazmin Garcia de Mendoza	
San Carlos	Cristina Sustaita	Ana Gallegos
San Juan	Viviana Villarreal	Yolanda Garza
Seguin	Jose Reyes	Mayra Enriquez
Singleterry	Aleida Garces	Melissa Carr
Tabasco	Leticia Garza	Brisa Cantu
Thigpen- Zavala	Lenny Sanchez	Sonia Botello- MISD