

# 2026 Cape Henlopen School District Behavior Health Professional of the Year Nomination Information

In 2021, the Delaware State Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Program was established under House Bill 35 of the 151st General Assembly. The first state winner was selected in June 2022 and served as the 2023 Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year.

This program requires that each year, every school district recognizes outstanding service by school employees who are **health care practitioners or human service providers** who offer services for the purpose of improving an individual's mental health. Such school employees include school counselors, school social workers, licensed clinical social workers, school psychologists and school nurses.

From those nominated at the building level, one Behavioral Health Professional moves forward to represent each district or the charter school community in the state program. The state program will choose one person annually to serve as Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year.

## ELIGIBILITY

Nominees should be skillful and dedicated behavioral health professionals employed by a district or charter school.

To be eligible as a district or state nominee, the candidate must:

- Have at least three years experience as a behavioral health professional (the experience is not required to be in the same district/school or position);
- Hold a certification or licensure credential through the Department of Education and/or the Professional Regulation Board;
- Continue to serve in a behavioral health position for the award year. Individuals named Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year are not eligible for nomination in a future year.

## AWARD, RECOGNITION AND FUNDING

- Each district/charter network winner will receive a \$2,000 personal award from the winner's district or charter school.
- The state winner will receive an additional \$3,000 personal award from the Delaware Department of Education as well as \$5,000 to be used for the educational benefit of his or her students.
- The Secretary of Education or the Secretary of Education's designee will visit the winner's work site to announce the award. Media will be invited to the announcement, which also will be highlighted in department communications.

## NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025

**Cape Henlopen School District** will accept nominations for the award from students and staff across the District as well as from the community.

Behavioral Health Professionals that accept the nomination will fill out an application and will be interviewed by a District committee. One winner will be chosen to represent the District as Cape Henlopen's Behavioral Health Professional of the Year.

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FOR NOMINATION FORM

2026 Cape Henlopen School District  
**Behavior Health Professional of the Year**  
Nomination Information

**NOMINEE INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATOR INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATION**

*Please explain why you feel this Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) deserves recognition, citing specific examples. Some things to consider: the BHP's methods for meeting student needs, desire for professional growth, community involvement, dedication to the profession, and rapport with students, parents and staff. **The more compelling the response the better. If the below is not enough space, you may attach your response separately to this form.***