

2025-2026 Indian River School District  
"A Model of Excellence"

# Behavioral Health Professional of the Year

*Nomination Information*

## Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Program

In 2021, the Delaware State Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Program was established under House Bill 35 of the 151st General Assembly. The Delaware Department of Education drafted Regulation 239 to implement the program and establish policies and procedures for the award. The first state winner was selected in June 2022 and served as the 2023 Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year.

The 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**.

## Eligibility

As you seek nominations, please ensure your candidates meet the following state criteria:

Nominees should be skillful and dedicated behavioral health professionals employed by a district or charter school. To be eligible as a state nominee, the candidate must:

- Have at least three (3) 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.
- Individuals who have been recognized as the District Behavioral Health Professional of the Year in the previous three years **are not** eligible for state nomination.

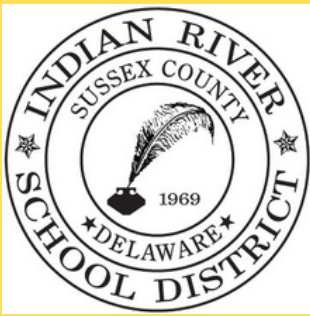
## Award, Recognition & Funding

- 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 **Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year** will be announced at a statewide event that honors all 20 honorees. Media will be invited to the announcement, which also will be highlighted in department communications.
- Recognition will include a plaque for the statewide Behavioral Health Professional (BHP).

## Nomination Process: January 6, 2025-February 6, 2025

Indian River School District Behavioral Health Professional of the Year will accept nominations for the award from students and staff across the district as well as our community partners.

- Each school building will select one behavioral health professional.
- Behavioral Health Professionals that accept the nomination must complete the application process. The deadline for application submission will be February 28, 2025.
- The District winner will be chosen by the District Selection Committee. The District winner will represent Indian River School District as the 2025-2026 Indian River Behavioral Health Professional of the Year.



2025-2026 Indian River School District  
"A Model of Excellence"

# Behavioral Health Professional of the Year

*Nomination Form*

## Nominee information

Name

School

Current Position

## Nominator information

Name

Email Address

Relationship to Nominee

**In 100 words or less, please explain why you believe this individual deserves this recognition:** (Pre-K-First Grade students can have a parent/guardian write the response)

Nominator Signature

#We are **IRSD**