



20th Annual “Excellence in Action Awards”

We are excited to announce Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Parent Services is now accepting nominations for the **20th Annual Excellence in Action Awards** which will be presented on May 13, 2019.

The Excellence in Action Awards (EIA) were established for parents to recognize individuals who have made a difference in the life of their child with special needs who receives Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services. Over the last 19 years, family members, including students, have been inspired to submit hundreds of nominations for administrators, teachers, support staff, transportation staff, therapists, community members, and volunteers who have touched their lives.

EIA nomination letters will be accepted from family members or students only, and should specify how the nominee has made a difference in the life of their child with special needs. EIA nomination letters will be verified and separated into categories. The winner of each category will be determined by committee solely on the content of the letter.

Special Awards have been added over the years to recognize individuals and organizations who have made broad contributions through their leadership and innovative programs that enhance the lives of families who have children with special needs and their communities. These special awards are the **Millie Bucy Positive Parent Involvement Award** and the **Community Impact Award**.

For these two awards, nomination letters will be accepted from anyone and should specify the individual nominee’s or organization’s accomplishments that enhance the lives of families who have a child with special needs and their communities. Nominations for schools, district sponsored involvement, and/or self-nominations will not be considered.

Nomination Process:

Excellence in Action (EIA) Awards *(to be submitted by parents or students only)*:

Please submit an online nomination for an individual who has made a difference in the life of your child with special needs. This individual can be from your child’s school or from the community. This includes all teachers, support staff, therapists, administrators, volunteers, district staff, transportation staff, crossing guards, tutors, mentors, sports coaches & recreation leaders, etc.

Millie Bucy Positive Parent Involvement Award:

Please submit an online nomination for a parent of a child with special needs who has positively and collaboratively advocated for their child and has used their very personal experiences to encourage and support other families who have children with special needs.

Community Impact Award:

Please submit an online nomination for an individual, organization, or business that has shown their commitment to enhancing the lives of children with special needs by supporting their educational, personal, and/or recreational activities.

Deadline for Submissions:

Please submit your nomination(s) by 5 p.m. Monday, March 25, 2019.



Excellence in Action Awards Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I go to submit a nomination? Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EIA2019> to submit a nomination.

Who can help me with the nomination process? If you have any question regarding the nomination process or do not have access to the online form, please contact Debbie Valdes, FDLRS Parent Services for assistance, telephone (813) 837-7732 or email fdlrsparentservices@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

Who is eligible to submit a nomination for the EIA Awards? Any parent or caregiver of a student with special needs or the student with special needs.

What are the different EIA Award Categories?

- ⇒ **Teacher:** ESE teacher or General Education teacher who works with your child.
- ⇒ **Administrator:** assistant principal, principal, etc.
- ⇒ **Therapist:** speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, etc.
- ⇒ **Instructional Support:** nursing staff, ESE specialist, district resource teacher, social worker, etc.
- ⇒ **Support Staff:** paraprofessional, health, food service, office, custodial, etc.
- ⇒ **Transportation Staff:** bus driver, attendant, supervisor, etc.
- ⇒ **Other / Community Agencies:** crossing guards, sports coaches, recreation leaders, etc.
- ⇒ **Volunteers:** peer buddies, parents, etc.

What information do I need for the EIA nomination? Your name and contact information, your nominee's name and contact information, your child's name, and a short paragraph specifically explaining how your nominee has made a difference in the life of your child with special needs. We recommend typing the paragraph in a document which can be copied and pasted into the online form.

May I nominate my co-worker or family member for an EIA award? They work with students. We appreciate the thought, but unless they work with your child with special needs, they do not meet the criteria for nomination.

Who is eligible to submit a nomination for the *Millie Bucy Positive Parent Involvement Award* and the *Community Impact Award*? Everyone is eligible to submit a nomination for these special awards. However, nominations for school or district sponsored involvement or self-nominations will not be considered.

What information do I need for the *Millie Bucy Positive Parent Involvement Award* or the *Community Impact Award*? Your name and contact information, your nominee's name or organization and contact information, and a short paragraph specifically explaining how your nominee or organization's accomplishment has made a difference in the lives of children with special needs and their families.

Who will be invited to the event? In addition to the individuals who have been nominated and the individuals who have submitted nominations, invitations will be sent to the nominee's supervisor, area staff, the superintendent and his staff as well as school board members.

When is the event? The evening of Monday, May 13, 2019.

When will the winners be announced? During the Excellence in Action Awards Ceremony.

