

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor and pleasure to accept the 2016 National Network for Early Language Learning Award for Outstanding Support of Early Language Learning. I am so grateful for the efforts of our school system's staff to make early world language learning a priority in Howard County, Maryland.

The Howard County Public School System believes that every student should have at least intermediate proficiency in a world language by the time they graduate high school. Immersive world language instruction, beginning in the early stages of the educational experience, enables students to become culturally competent, and college-, career- and world-ready with critical in-demand skills for today's increasingly globalized world.

As early language professionals, you already know about the cognitive and communicative benefits that develop as a result of language learning. As language proficiency increases, so does a perspective of people and practices in different communities. This cultural understanding is a vital asset in a diverse community such as Howard County.

I want to thank the National Network for Early Language Learning for this honor and for its dedication to promoting early world language education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee A. Foose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Renee A. Foose
Superintendent
Howard County Public School System