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For immediate release

**Two City Schools Receive EGATE Award for Exceptional Gifted and Talented Programs**  
*Ten City Schools employees recognized as outstanding educators*

(Baltimore, MD) – Two Baltimore City Public Schools, Hampstead Hill Academy and Hamilton Elementary/Middle School, have received the Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) award this year.

The EGATE award is given by The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education to schools with gifted and talented programs that are aligned with state guidelines and regulations. Only six Maryland schools received the award this year. Four City Schools have now been awarded this distinction. Cross Country and Roland Park elementary/middle schools received EGATE awards last year.

“This is a great honor for Hampstead Hill and Hamilton, two schools with truly exceptional gifted and talented programs,” said City Schools CEO Gregory Thornton. “I am so proud of them and their hard work to meet the needs of all of the students, including gifted and advanced learners.”

“Our school and parent community are wildly excited to receive this year's EGATE award,” said Hampstead Hill’s principal, Matt Hornbeck. “We are honored to be recognized for providing an outstanding gifted and talented curriculum for our students. Thanks to MSDE, City Schools, and our own EGATE leadership team of Laura Guitian and Zoe Fortier for making this award possible. Our kids have earned it.”

“We are all so excited about this award!” said Hamilton’s principal, Patricia Drummond. “It reflects the hard work of our students and staff and the school’s commitment to gifted and advanced learning. From pre-k to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the Hamilton community works diligently with families and community partners on enriching the lives and learning of all of our students.”

The schools will be honored at a reception at North County High School in Glen Burnie on Wednesday, February 24, and will receive a banner for their school. Ten City Schools employees are also being recognized by MSDE for their outstanding efforts, including teachers, a principal, and a district coordinator:

- Marsha Allred, Cecil Elementary School
- Allison Ferguson and Alberta Marchesani, Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School
- Zoe Fortier and Laura Guitian, Hampstead Hill Academy

- Robin Hester, Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School
- Linda Lasky and S. Rae Lymer, Cross Country Elementary/Middle School
- Nicholas D'Ambrosio, Principal, Roland Park Elementary/Middle School
- Dennis Jutras, Coordinator, Gifted and Advanced Learning, Baltimore City Public Schools

Additionally, two of the district's partners, nominated by City Schools for their support of gifted and advanced learning programs, will receive awards. Notre Dame of Maryland University will be recognized in the category of Outstanding Institution of Higher Education, and Ingenuity Project will be recognized in the category of Outstanding Business and Community Partnership.

In the 2015-16 school year, gifted and advanced learning programs are in place in 10 elementary/middle schools, with plans to expand to an additional 18 schools next school year. The programs provide all gifted students with advanced content, curricula, and activities not ordinarily found in the classroom in order to fully develop their true potential.

The State of Maryland has proclaimed February as Gifted and Talented Education Month.