
Dr. Edwin Dunlap, Jr., Executive Director
Email: edunlap@ncsba.org
www.ncsba.org

For Immediate Release

McDowell County Wins Excellence in Educational Programs Award

The McDowell County Board of Education is the 2020 winner of the Excellence in Educational Programs Award. This award, which is given by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA), recognizes school boards for the development of extraordinary educational programs.

The board was honored for its Public Safety Academy during the awards ceremony at the virtual NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development on November 6. Since the Public Safety Academy began in 2014-2015, it has grown to include firefighting, EMT, and law and justice programs.

Described by NCSBA Immediate Past President Brenda Stephens as a future-focused district committed to helping students become college and career ready, McDowell County Schools has developed partnerships throughout the community that allow students to gain real-life public safety experience through internships and apprenticeships. Students can work toward an associate's degree in emergency management at the local community college, and the academy's Teen Court serves as a diversion program for teen offenders while giving students a chance to serve as jurors, bailiffs, prosecution, and defense. Students are also able to test their skills at numerous public safety competitions across the state.

About NCSBA

NCSBA was established in 1937 as an advocate for public school education. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership association that represents all 115 local boards of education in the state and the Board of Education of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. NCSBA's mission is to provide leadership and services that enable local boards of education to govern effectively.

*For more information, please call Ramona Miller at (919) 841-4040 or (800) 321-NCSBA
or send email to rmiller@ncsba.org.*

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