



# Harford County Public Schools

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Jacqueline C. Haas, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

## Jackie Haas named Maryland Superintendent of the Year

*Ten-year Harford school head acclaimed by peers as 'exemplary' leader.*

Harford Public School Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas has been named Maryland Superintendent of the Year for the 2007-08 school year by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). Dr. Haas, in her tenth year as chief executive officer of the local school system, was announced as the state's top superintendent during the Maryland Negotiating Service (MNS) annual banquet held at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City October 25<sup>th</sup>.



“She truly deserves this award – she is a wonderful education leader for Harford County and throughout the state,” said State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick, who was present for the announcement made by James Lupis, Executive Director of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM). “Her leadership is marked by an enthusiasm that is contagious to all those with whom she becomes involved.”

Dr. Haas was nominated by the entire leadership of the Harford County Public Schools, including the two associations representing school administrators, the Board of Education of Harford County, and the Senior Staff. Her nomination packet also included letters of endorsement from County Executive David R. Craig and Harford Community College President James LaCalle.

Those superintendents nominated had their packets judged by the six active school chief operating officers in the state who had been previously chosen as superintendents of the year, including Carl Roberts of Cecil County and Jon Andes of Worcester County – both former administrators in the Harford County Public Schools.

“Jackie has served in every position of leadership in PSSAM from secretary, to treasurer, to legislative chair, to president elect, and president,” said Mr. Lupis after making the surprise announcement at the conclusion of the banquet. “This award says that she is an exemplary superintendent as determined by her peers.”

A contingent of school leaders from Harford County attended the MNS banquet in a demonstration of support for the nomination of Dr. Haas. “I think it is significant that all the school leadership was involved in making the nomination,” said HCPS Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Jonathan O’Neal.

Added Acting Chief of Administration Joseph Licata, “There was never a doubt that she would win as far as I am concerned – Jackie’s leadership demonstrates her dedication to students – with her, it’s always about the kids.”

Former Board President R. Robin Rich, now in her sixth year on the Board, said she and all members of the Board were “delighted” at Dr. Haas’ selection. “She puts students first in all situations and that helps us focus on what is important,” Ms. Rich said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Haas said she was “humbled” by her selection as the state’s top superintendent. “This is such an honor to be mentioned among those superintendents who have been chosen before,” she told the group of about 100 from all the state’s school systems who attended the banquet. “I’m blessed that we have a Board who keeps its eye on the prize – this will be a positive memory for me forever.”

The local school superintendent said the fact that she was nominated by such a wide group of the school system’s leadership is the most gratifying aspect of the process. “I’ve been privileged to watch and learn from the other superintendents who work so diligently for the good of the students in their school systems,” said Dr. Haas. “To be listed among that group is truly an honor.”

Next month, Dr. Haas will receive a “traveling” plaque with her name engraved along with the others who had previously been honored as state superintendents of the year. The United States Superintendent of the Year will be announced during AASA’s February convention to be held in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Haas is a 36-year educator, having spent much of her career in general education, as well as working with severely and profoundly handicapped children. A graduate of the University of Delaware with a Master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Haas earned her doctoral degree from the University of Maryland.

She taught in Harford public schools for 13 years before becoming an Assistant Principal at Prospect Mill Elementary in 1990. She served as principal at Edgewood Elementary School for five years and was promoted to be Assistant Superintendent for Education Services in July 1997. Dr. Haas was named Interim Superintendent of Harford’s public schools by the Board of Education of Harford County on March 16, 1998 and was reappointed for the 1998-99 school year on June 8, 1998.

On November 9, 1998, the Board unanimously appointed Dr. Haas for her first full four-year term as Superintendent. She has subsequently been reappointed for two additional four-year terms.

Dr. Haas and her husband Jim, a retired Harford County Public School Special Education and Social Studies teacher, have two sons and live in Aberdeen. Their older son, Rob, is a 1999 graduate of Aberdeen High School; while their younger son, Steven, is a 2003 graduate of Harford Technical High School.