



For Immediate Release

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Danville Ind., Livingston Co. & Meade Co. have finalists for statewide Fred Award

(Frankfort, Ky) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) has announced the three finalists for the 2026 Fred Award, recognizing exceptional support staff who make a lasting difference in Kentucky's public schools:

- 1. Porshe Dunn (Attendance Secretary, Danville Independent Schools)**
- 2. Kanda Boyd (Kitchen Manager, Livingston County Schools)**
- 3. Regina Decker (Bus Driver, Meade County Schools)**

Now in its 19th year, the Fred Award Program continues its mission to shine a light on the unsung heroes of public education—the dedicated support staff who shape school culture through their daily actions. Presented by KASA in partnership with author Mark Sanborn and American Fidelity, the program has grown to include participation from 57 school districts across the Commonwealth.

Inspired by Mark Sanborn's *The Fred Factor*, the award honors non-administrative staff who go above and beyond in service to students, families, and colleagues. Each year, districts nominate individuals who embody four defining qualities: making a positive difference each day, building meaningful relationships, creating memorable moments, and leading by example.

"These finalists remind us that the most powerful impact in our schools often comes from those who lead through service," said Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, KASA Chief Executive Officer. "They don't seek recognition—they simply show up each day with purpose, heart, and a commitment to making life better for others. That kind of leadership changes the experience students have in our schools and strengthens entire communities."

As part of the selection process, each finalist's district will be visited by a film crew to capture their story and the impact of their work. These videos will be reviewed by a panel of education leaders from across the state to determine the 2026 Fred Award recipient.

The winner will be announced on July 31 during KASA's Annual Leadership Institute in Louisville. All finalists will be recognized during the event and will receive a commemorative plaque, a copy of *The Fred Factor*, complimentary accommodations at the Galt House Hotel, and a monetary award of \$1,000 for the winner and \$500 for each finalist.

KASA's Fred Award is made possible through its valued partnership with American Fidelity.

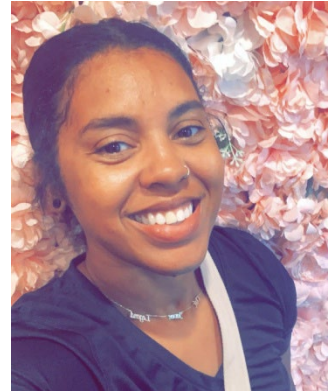
Growing Leaders, Transforming Public Education, and Shaping Students' Futures

PHONE: (502) 875-3411 TOLL FREE: (800) 928-KASA (5272) • 87 C. Michael Davenport Blvd. • Frankfort, KY 40601 • www.kasa.org
Chief Executive Officer • **Rhonda Caldwell, CAE, Ed.D.**

Meet the 2026 Fred Finalists:

Porsche Dunn, Attendance Secretary, Danville Independent Schools

Porsche Dunn is the heartbeat of her school, creating a front office environment where every student, family, and staff member feels welcomed, valued, and cared for. With a natural gift for connection and an unwavering sense of compassion, she turns even the busiest or most challenging moments into opportunities to uplift others. Porsche knows students by name, celebrates their successes, and goes out of her way to support those who need it most—whether through a kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or creating opportunities that help every child feel included. Her positivity, humor, and grace set the tone for the entire school, while her dedication and reliability ensure everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. Porsche doesn't just do her job—she transforms the culture around her, making a lasting difference in the lives of everyone she touches.



Kanda Boyd, Kitchen Manager, Livingston County Schools

Kanda Boyd redefines what it means to serve, turning everyday moments in the cafeteria into opportunities for connection, joy, and lasting impact. As a kitchen manager, she goes far beyond preparing meals—she creates an environment where every child feels seen, valued, and excited to be part of the school community. Through innovative ideas, intentional relationship-building, and a deep commitment to students and families, Kanda transforms her space into a hub of positivity and belonging. Her leadership extends well beyond the cafeteria, from organizing meaningful events to expanding access to meals across the district, always with a focus on meeting needs and lifting others up. Her work consistently reflects a deep commitment to students, families, and the broader school community.



Regina Decker, Bus Driver, Meade County Schools

Regina Decker is far more than a bus driver—she is a steady, caring presence in the lives of every child she serves, transforming each ride into a safe, welcoming, and meaningful experience. She greets every student by name, notices the small things others might miss, and responds with compassion, whether that means offering encouragement, checking on a child's well-being, or leaving handwritten notes during difficult times. Regina builds deep, lasting relationships with families and students alike, creating a sense of trust and belonging that extends beyond the bus. Through her consistency, warmth, and unwavering commitment, she elevates an often-overlooked role into one of powerful daily impact, embodying the very spirit of service, care, and excellence this award represents.



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Previous Fred Award Recipients Include:

2025 Melissa Hughes (School Secretary) Campbellsville Independent Schools
2024 Estil Hylton (Custodian) Pike County Schools
2023 Mahlon Thomas (Bus Driver) Carlisle County Schools
2022 Danny Fugett (Custodian) Ashland Independent Schools
2021 Daniel Lyne (Custodian) Daviess County Schools
2020 Melvin Bell (Custodian) LaRue County Schools
2019 Angela Shoemaker (Custodian) Muhlenberg County Schools
2018 Rita Renfrow (Pre-K Assistant) Butler County Schools
2017 Kathy Fryman (Custodian) Augusta Independent Schools
2016 Kenny Kelley (Bus Driver) Daviess County Schools
2015 Marvin McHenry (Custodian) Carter County Schools
2014 Bruce Bell (Custodian) Union County Schools
2013 Danny Henderson (Bus Driver/Maintenance) Carlisle County Schools
2012 Jon Foote (Volunteer Aviation Instructor) Monroe County Schools
2011 Rick Branham (Homeless Liaison) Pike County Schools
2010 Ronald Shoulta (Bus Driver) Paducah Independent Schools
2009 Brenda Sorrell (Bus Driver) Montgomery County Schools
2008 Fred Strange (Custodian) Campbell County Schools

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky representing more than 3,300 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits to Kentucky's school administrators.

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