



METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP**

**Dr. Shawn A. Smith**  
Superintendent

Lawrence Education & Community Center  
6501 Sunnyside Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46236  
**(317) 423-8200**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 25, 2021

Contact: Dana Altemeyer, Ed.D.

Director of Communications

Phone: (317) 423-8375 / Email: [danaaltemeyer@msdlt.k12.in.us](mailto:danaaltemeyer@msdlt.k12.in.us)



**MSD of Lawrence Township**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**DESIGN CHALLENGE**

INDIANAPOLIS - The MSD of Lawrence Township is pleased to recognize all finalists and to announce the winner of the 2021 Excellence Design Challenge, sponsored by the Lawrence Township School Foundation. The Design Challenge seeks to financially reward a teacher for an innovative idea that, if implemented, meaningfully impacts the organization through efficiency, effectiveness, and/or measurable improvements. The winning project was selected by a committee from eight submissions, all of which included a comprehensive Research and Development phase outside of the contract day.

The MSD of Lawrence Township is pleased to announce that mother and daughter, **Alicia Stevens and Emily Murphy of Crestview Elementary School** are the recipients of the 2021 Excellence Design Challenge \$20,000 Grand Prize. This team's proposal, titled ***Movin', Groovin', and Feelin' Fine: Meeting Physical and Sensory Needs of Today's Children***, was identified by district leadership as best affecting efficiently, effectiveness, and improved outcomes. The purpose of this project is to create safe spaces in and around the school for every child. Many students have diagnosed or undiagnosed attention deficits, may need a cool down place in the school, or a place to be rewarded for good behavior. This is a perfect solution for students needing a place to take a break.

According to Emily Murphy, "Finding ways to support students with their sensory, emotional and physical needs is a very large deficit in school buildings today, especially with all of the stressors such as the pandemic, social justice movements, and raised rigor and pace of instruction to fill in gaps. Having simple tools in place for all students to benefit from would make instructional settings much more efficient, effective and able to have improved instructional outcomes." [Click here to learn more about the project or to access its resources.](#)

“I am proud to celebrate the innovation of both the Challenge Winners, and am grateful to the Foundation for their role in bringing this program to fruition,” shares superintendent, Dr. Shawn A. Smith. He adds, “Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Stevens’ project represents the innovative thinking taking place throughout the district that supports our commitment to educating the whole child.”

Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Stevens are the joint recipients of a \$20,000 personal prize, and their project and accompanying resources will be made available to schools to implement immediately.

To learn more about the Design Challenge, visit [www.LTschools.org/design-challenge](http://www.LTschools.org/design-challenge).

**About the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township:**

The ninth largest and one of the fastest growing school district in the state, the MSD of Lawrence Township serves approximately 16,000 students across four Early Learning Centers, eleven Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools, two High Schools, a Center for Innovation and Technology, and an alternative setting high school. Lawrence Township strives to be the district of destination, a reputation built over the years based on the district’s award-winning staff, accomplished administrators, high-achieving students, supportive community, and innovative educational programs. Visit our website at [www.LTschools.org](http://www.LTschools.org).