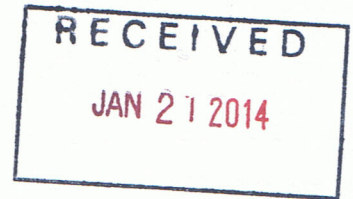




Government Finance Officers Association  
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210  
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806



December 16, 2013

Mr. E. Bruce Ford  
Comptroller  
Wicomico County Board of Education  
101 Long Avenue, P.O. Box 1538  
Salisbury, MD 21802-1538

Dear Mr. Ford:

A Panel of independent reviewers has completed its examination of your budget document. We are pleased to inform you that the panel has voted to award your budget document the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the current fiscal period. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by your organization.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is valid for one year. To continue your participation in the program, it will be necessary to submit your next annual budget document to GFOA within 90 days of the proposed budget's submission to the legislature or within 90 days of the budget's final adoption. Enclosed is an application form to facilitate a timely submission. This form should be submitted with four copies of your budget accompanied by the appropriate fee.

Each program participant is provided with confidential comments and suggestions for possible improvements to the budget document. Your comments are enclosed. We urge you to carefully consider the suggestions offered by our reviewers as you prepare your next budget.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. Enclosed is a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation for:

**E. Bruce Ford, Comptroller, Business Support Department**

Your award plaque will be mailed separately and should arrive within eight to ten weeks. Enclosed is a camera-ready reproduction of the award for inclusion in your next budget. If you reproduce the camera-ready in your next budget, it should be accompanied by a statement indicating continued compliance with program criteria.

The following standardized text should be used:



Government Finance Officers Association  
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210  
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

Mr. E. Bruce Ford  
December 16, 2013  
Page 2

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to **Wicomico County Board of Education, Maryland** for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2013**. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

A press release is enclosed.

The Government Finance Officers Association encourages you to make arrangements for a formal presentation of the award. If you would like the award presented by a member of your state or provincial finance officers association, we can provide the name of a contact person for that group.

We appreciate your participation in this program and we sincerely hope that your example will encourage others in their efforts to achieve and maintain excellence in governmental budgeting. The most current list of award recipients (with hyperlinks) can be found on GFOA's website at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org). If we can be of further assistance, please contact the Technical Services Center.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Gauthier, Director  
Technical Services Center

Enclosure



The Government Finance Officers Association  
of the United States and Canada

*presents this*

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR BUDGET PREPARATION

to

**E. Bruce Ford, Comptroller  
Business Support Department  
Wicomico County Board of Education, Maryland**

*The Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to those individuals who have been instrumental in their government unit achieving a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest award in governmental budgeting, is presented to those government units whose budgets are judged to adhere to program standards.*

Executive Director

Date            December 16, 2013





**Government Finance Officers Association**  
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210  
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

December 16, 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Further Information Contact  
Stephen J. Gauthier (312) 977-9700

\*\*\*\*\*

Chicago--The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that **Wicomico County Board of Education, Maryland** has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to **E. Bruce Ford, Comptroller, Business Support Department.**

For budgets including fiscal period 2012, over 1,340 entities are expected to received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving over 17,800 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.