

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER



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Oh The Weather Outside's Been Frightful!



During the gloomy days of winter, it is important that we find ways to uplift our spirits and continue to create an inspiring environment for learning and growth. Hard to believe that the first semester is over. As our high school students just completed their finals, we are all geared up for another semester of school. The end of the semester provides us the opportunity to revisit our first and second quarter goals and celebrate areas where we know we have improved or excelled, and push ourselves to achieve our benchmarks that we set for the rest of the school year.

At this week's board meeting, we shared the results of the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Winter Assessment that showed all grade levels met their expected growth in both reading and math. This is true as well for each student group categories by gender, ethnicity, English Language Learner, students with IEP, and income, all reaching their expected growth. Investment in our new reading curriculum, focus on internalization of instructional units, along with strong teacher collaboration through Professional Learning Communities are some of the contributing factors to this outcome.

We are also proud and inspired by the recognition that one of our paraprofessionals, Ms. Lakinda Brown has received. She will represent Illinois in the National RISE Awards sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Ms. Brown puts a spotlight on the important work that educational support staff do in our schools. Please read more about Ms. Brown's nomination on page 2.

Staff Recognition

CONGRATULATIONS TO FHS PARA LAKINDA BROWN

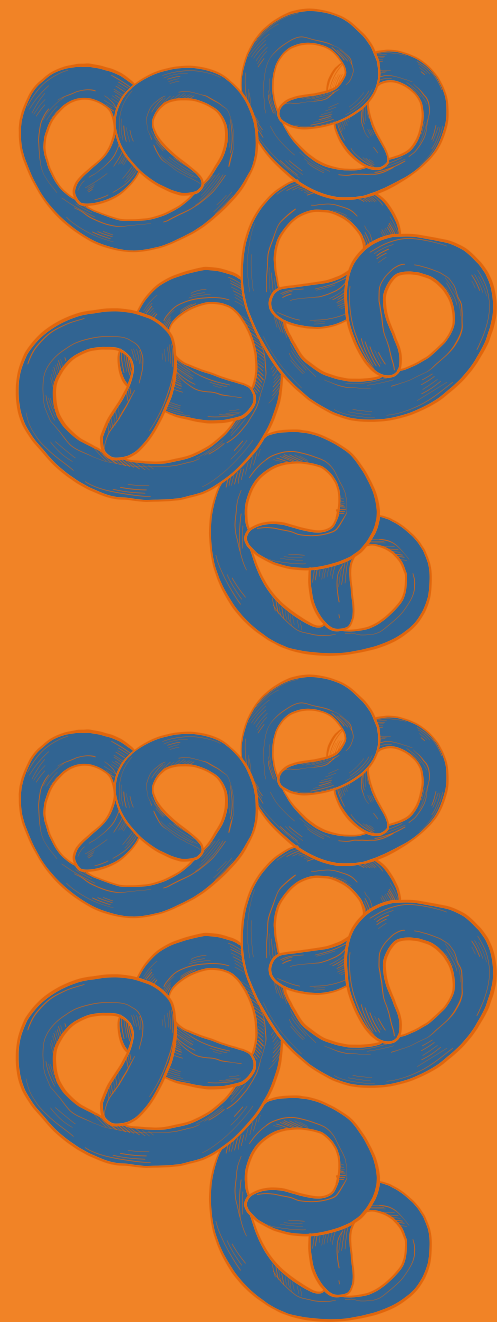


SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Governor JB Pritzker announced today the nominations of Mario Diaz Albarran, the head custodian at Community Consolidated School District 15 in Palatine, and Lakinda Brown, a paraprofessional at Freeport School District 145, to represent Illinois in the 2024 Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Awards, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Congress enacted the RISE awards program in 2019 to honor classified school employees who provide exemplary service to their schools and communities.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona will select a single classified school employee from the nominations made by states across the country to receive the national RISE Award in spring 2024.

“Ms. Brown and Mr. Diaz Albarran represent the indispensability of classified employees to building a positive school culture and climate,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders.

Lakinda Brown began her career at Freeport High School in School District 145 in 2016, supporting students with behavioral needs. Now as a paraeducator, she has expanded her duties and positive impact on the students, staff, and administrators at Freeport. Colleagues applaud Brown for her quick thinking to apply both her training and natural intuition to de-escalate behavioral incidents before they become bigger disruptions. Brown’s leadership extends outside of the classroom. She organizes events, such as Black History Month luncheons for staff and Veterans Day fundraisers with the community, and tutors students after school through the local Boys and Girls Club.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

No school for students on
Wednesday, Jan. 24th
due to our Winter Institute
for Faculty & Staff.

