



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brian Faulkner Named 2026-2027 President of the Illinois Principals Association

Springfield, Illinois — Brian Faulkner, principal of Kaneland Harter Middle School in Sugar Grove, Illinois, will serve as president of the Illinois Principals Association for the 2026–2027 school year.

Faulkner has selected IPA's theme for the year as "Unlocking Potential," which will be celebrated at the Education Leaders Annual Conference in October 2026.

"Unlocking Potential is centered on the belief that leadership is not confined to a title—it exists within every member of a school community," Faulkner said. "When we intentionally develop leadership capacity in educators, staff, and students, we create stronger collaboration, greater ownership, and learning experiences that support the success of every student."

Dr. Jason Leahy, Executive Director for the Illinois Principals Association, said, "Brian Faulkner is an exceptional leader. His colleagues constantly seek him out for guidance and support. Brian has served at all levels of the Association, which provides him the perspective and experience needed to ensure our members continue to receive the services they need to do what is best for their students."

Faulkner brings extensive middle-level education experience to the role. He began his career as a classroom teacher and later served as a dean of students in Valley View School District 365U. He then became an assistant principal in Huntley Community School District 158 before earning his first principalship in Itasca School District 10. Faulkner has served as principal of Kaneland Harter Middle School since 2015.

A committed educational leader, Brian has been actively involved with the Illinois Principals Association, previously serving in numerous leadership roles, including Region Membership Chair, Region Director, State Director, and President-Elect.

Brian Faulkner earned a Bachelor of Science with teacher certification from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Benedictine University. Outside of his professional life, Brian enjoys spending time with his wife, Katy, and their three daughters, Allison, Nora, and Avery.

The Illinois Principals Association is a professional organization serving more than 7,000 educational leaders throughout Illinois. IPA supports principals, assistant principals, deans, and other school leaders through advocacy, professional learning, networking, and resources that strengthen leadership and improve outcomes for students. Learn more at www.ilprincipals.org.

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