

MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Illinois Principals Association Encourages Principal Appreciation in October**

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Principals Association (IPA) encourages communities to celebrate Principal Appreciation Week October 18-24, 2026, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 23 to highlight the dedication of principals, assistant principals, and deans. This annual recognition has been recognized by Illinois governors since 1990. October is also National Principals Month, supported by the IPA, the National Principals Association (NPA), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA).

Brian Faulkner, IPA President and principal of Kaneland Harter Middle School (Sugar Grove) shared: "During Principal Appreciation Week, we celebrate the dedicated school leaders across Illinois who work tirelessly to create schools where students can learn, grow, and thrive. Principals are lead learners, culture builders, advocates, and champions for both students and staff. We are grateful for the passion, resilience, and unwavering commitment they bring to their schools and learning communities each and every day."

"This year, we celebrate our state's school leaders for what they do – unlocking the potential of those they serve," said **Dr. Jason Leahy, IPA Executive Director**. "These courageous individuals lead their learning organizations with optimism, humility, vision, perseverance, and a deep commitment to do what is best for their students. Both research and common sense tell us how critical these servants are to positively influence young people, teachers, and communities. For this, they deserve our respect and gratitude."

IPA invites teachers, students, parents, and community members to show appreciation for school leaders on Friday, October 23.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves almost 7,000 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org.

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