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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Kingstown School Department Celebrates Colleen Loughlin as 2026 Rhode Island Principal of the Year

North Kingstown, RI — [March 6, 2026] — The North Kingstown School Department is proud to announce that Colleen Loughlin, Principal of Fishing Cove Elementary School, has been named the 2026 Rhode Island Principal of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of School Principals.

The announcement was made during a surprise school assembly held this morning at Fishing Cove Elementary School, where students, staff, and members of the school community gathered to celebrate the exciting news.

Mrs. Loughlin has had a career in education for 26 years, 10 of those years as a school principal, including the past eight years as principal of Fishing Cove Elementary School. During her time in North Kingstown, she has built a reputation as an exceptional leader who brings enthusiasm, compassion, and a deep commitment to students and staff each day.

“Colleen is an extraordinary leader with a huge heart for her school community,” said Superintendent Dr. Duva. “She is deeply devoted to supporting every student at Fishing Cove and across North Kingstown. Her collaborative leadership style, positive spirit, and unwavering dedication to students and staff make her incredibly deserving of this honor.”

Mrs. Loughlin is widely respected for her ability to bring people together, foster a welcoming and joyful school environment, and support both the academic and social-emotional growth of her students. Her leadership has helped make Fishing Cove Elementary School a vibrant and supportive learning community. Fishing Cove fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Keefe, compared her to the “head of a family”, from building positive culture to caring for each student, knowing everyone’s name, right down to the bus drivers, to making sure everyone’s hearts and minds are being fed, Mrs. Loughlin sits at the head of the table!”



The North Kingstown School Department congratulates Mrs. Loughlin on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her continued leadership and dedication to the students, staff, and families in our community.

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