Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
April 23, 2026	Recognition Item 9

Title

CCSD Counselor of the Year and Innovation Zone Winners

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of CCSD Counselor of the Year and Innovation Zone Winners

Summary Explanation and Background

The 2026 CCSD Counselor of the Year is Hillary Nichols of Cherokee High School! She now advances to the statewide competition.

A nine-year CCSD school counselor, Ms. Nichols has served for the last two years at Cherokee HS, where she also heads the counseling department and serves as school webmaster and wellness ambassador.

The award process begins with each innovation zone selecting a counselor of the year. Applications from these honorees then are considered by a panel of retired educators and community leaders, who select the CCSD Counselor of the Year.

Our Innovation Zone Counselors of the Year are: Cherokee Zone, Hillary Nichols of Cherokee HS; Creekview Zone, Susanna Brooks of Free Home ES; Etowah Zone, Robert Arsenault of Clark Creek ES STEM Academy; River Ridge Zone, Heather Duley of Johnston ES; Sequoyah Zone, Colleen DeLosh of Indian Knoll ES; Woodstock Zone, Sarah Bigelow of Freedom MS.

Credit Union of Georgia sponsors award gift cards for the overall winner and each of the Zone winners.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

N/A

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

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