Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
May 14, 2026	Recognition Item 6

Title

Exemplary ESOL Teacher of the Year and Exemplary EL Student of the Year

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of Exemplary ESOL Teacher of the Year and Exemplary EL Student of the Year

Summary Explanation and Background

Congratulations to 2026 honorees: teacher Danielle Townsend of Johnston Elementary School and River Ridge High School senior Fernando Gonzalez Martinez! The Georgia Department of Education annually recognizes one outstanding English for Speakers of Other Languages teacher and English Learner student from each school district who meet high standards for teaching and learning.

Fernando, who plans to earn a bachelor's degree in automotive engineering, is a member of River Ridge's soccer and cross-country teams and Student Athlete Leadership Team (SALT) program. He volunteers as a mentor for English Learner students.

A six-year ESOL teacher, Ms. Townsend additionally brings to her role experience teaching grades 3 to 5 as well as Early Intervention Program students. She is known not only for her exceptional classroom instruction, but also for her commitment to supporting colleagues by sharing best instructional practices to improve the school overall.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

N/A

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

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