

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 18, 2025**

## **South Londonderry Elementary School Named 2025 New Hampshire Elementary School of Excellence**

**Londonderry, NH** – The New Hampshire School of Excellence Committee proudly announces that **South Londonderry Elementary School** in **Londonderry, New Hampshire**, has been named the **2025 New Hampshire Elementary School of Excellence**. This prestigious distinction honors South Londonderry Elementary School's unwavering commitment to academic achievement, inclusive practices, and whole-child development.

After a rigorous and thorough evaluation process of schools across the state, South Londonderry Elementary School stood out as a model of excellence in public education. The committee praised their nurturing climate, student-centered instruction, and its deep-rooted values of **kindness, safety, respect, and responsibility**—principles that guide every aspect of the school's culture.

Led by **Principal Debra Setterlund, Assistant Principal Shawn Flynn, and Special Education Director Alexis Leclair**, South Londonderry Elementary School has built a collaborative and vibrant learning environment where every child is seen, supported, and challenged to grow. From daily school-wide, student-led announcements to a robust Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and inclusive special education programs, South Londonderry Elementary School fosters academic rigor and social-emotional learning with equal purpose.

At the heart of South Londonderry Elementary School's success is a rigorous, research-based curriculum aligned with the science of reading, including CKLA, Foundations, and Heggerty. In mathematics, They utilize Math in Focus alongside real-world problem-solving, manipulatives, and digital tools such as Reflex Math. The school's schedule protects sacred instructional blocks for literacy and math, promoting equitable access to grade-level content and materials for all students.

Ongoing data analysis, collaborative grade-level PLCs, and personalized goal-setting inform instructional decisions at South Londonderry Elementary School. Students engage in regular "data chats," monitor their progress in i-Ready, and participate in flexible groupings based on formative assessments. Enrichment opportunities, student-led newscasts, STEM projects, and curriculum-integrated research experiences like the second-grade owl project and fifth-grade egg drop bolster this personalized learning environment.

South Londonderry Elementary School's dedication to community and family partnerships is equally remarkable. From the weekly **Hawk Happenings** newsletter to vibrant PTA-sponsored events such as the Holiday Stroll and Spring Picnic, the school thrives as a hub of engagement. Initiatives like Beautify Londonderry and the Student Hawk Shop deepen community-school connections and instill civic pride in students.

South Londonderry Elementary School's positive culture is celebrated in monthly **All-School Meetings**, where students lead assemblies that recognize academic and behavioral achievements, reinforce PBIS expectations, and build a sense of collective purpose. These meetings and clubs, like the world-famous Jump Rope Club, Girls on the Run, Drama Club, and the Inclusion and Belonging Committee, underscore the school's commitment to empowering students and honoring diverse interests and voices.

Staff well-being and empowerment are also central to South Londonderry Elementary School's success. Teacher-led committees, "Underground Spirit Week," and a culture of appreciation help sustain the school's strong, motivated team. South Londonderry Elementary School recognizes that educators are best equipped to support every student's success when they feel valued and inspired.

"South Londonderry Elementary School embodies what it means to be a School of Excellence," said a NH Excellence in Education Committee representative. "Their dedication to rigorous academics, inclusive teaching practices, and a joyful school culture makes them a beacon for schools across the state."

**South Londonderry Elementary School will be honored at the 2025 NH Excellence in Education Awards on June 7 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown.**

#### **New Hampshire Excellence in Education**

The New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards aims to acknowledge schools and individuals within New Hampshire who demonstrate high standards of excellence. This celebration is made possible through the combined efforts of various statewide education associations, our committed Board of Directors, and the generous support of sponsors from across the Granite State. It acts as a powerful catalyst, showcasing exceptional public schools, initiatives, and educators, setting a precedent to inspire and drive excellence throughout the entire state.