

Honor Roll

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It is an honor to partner with our members. Throughout our time working together, some members stand out as going above and beyond.

When asked about the district's success in proactive measures, **Mary Cooper (CFO, Englewood Public School District)** shared "The people here really make the difference. Everyone who works here cares so much about the quality of the education we provide. What's nice about working in a small community is that everyone wants to do better. The people here feel so accountable to each other, and this shines through in everything they work on". Mary noted that the community sees the property of the schools as assets to cherish. "They care about their busses, their buildings. The community and employees see the buildings as theirs [...], so they take extra care of them". Mary gave credit to the "cohesive" and "dedicated" education community she works with. She reflected on her gratitude in being on a team that is able to make quick decisions while giving each person a voice, stating "*we make better decisions together*". In discussing her continual focus on public education, she noted a recent attendance of a school ceremony for students who met graduation requirements. Mary reflected on how meaningful it was to be able to witness this celebration due to a temporary relocation, and shared that she requested an invitation to future ceremonies. "This is why we do it. It's all of us working together to support the students. *It's all about the students, whatever they need, whatever it takes*".

In another district, **Brittany Clark (Business Office Manager, Calhan Public School District)** accredited their success to a strong and committed focus on "student and staff safety". In fact, Brittany noted that the top priority of the district is safety, and the district has gone through great lengths to ensure they are adhering to safety best-practices. She noted "I am so blessed to work for such a wonderful district where our superintendent is always looking for the next best thing to make sure we are keeping up with all the best protocols. We have a great team". While safety/harassment trainings and protocols can put some schools on edge, Brittany noted "We are lucky because we are small. It turns into that family feeling ... We are so close knit, *we all want to look out for each other and we will do whatever it takes to make sure we are prepared*". She noted that the school implements required trainings for staff on a variety of topics such as "harassment, privacy laws, confidentiality, Title IX, mandatory reporting" and that the key to successful training implementation is providing the training while employees are on the clock- not during their personal time. Brittany noted another helpful part for buy in is educating staff and students on both the big picture and individual implications of disregarding policy.