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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Ward, Superintendent of Magnolia School District, Selected as 2022 Superintendent of the Year by Arkansas Association of School Administrators (AASA)

Magnolia, AR – Mr. John "Skipper" Ward, Superintendent of Magnolia School District, was presented with the 2022 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year Award. Dr. Mike Hernandez, Executive Director, for the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), along with former Superintendents of the Year, surprised Mr. Ward, presenting him with the award at a board meeting in the Magnolia School District on September 13.

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Superintendent of the Year program, sponsored by First Student, AIG Retirement Services, and AASA, pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools. Candidates are judged on the following criteria: leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Each State's association of school administrators around the nation selects a State Superintendent of the Year. These superintendents are then in the running for the National Superintendent of the Year award and will be recognized and honored at the AASA National Conference in February.

John Ward is in his eighth year as Superintendent of the Magnolia School District and his 25th year in education. His educational philosophy has always been rooted in the idea that education is about more than what happens inside the four walls of a classroom. In each role Mr. Ward has held, he's made providing experiences for students one of his main priorities. Mr. Ward believes that education is about more than preparing students for a test; educators must prepare students for life.

Ward has been recognized as a servant leader by his community involvement and participation in many organizations. He sits on many local and state-wide boards intending to provide more experiences for his students. As a veteran educator, he has dedicated his life's work to students, serving as an elementary science and reading teacher, a bus driver, a principal, and for the past 15 years, a superintendent.

A peer of Mr. Ward stated, "John 'Skipper' Ward is a real asset to our State and is an exceptional superintendent for his school district. Skipper serves in numerous leadership roles in our State. He is on the AAEA Board and is always actively working with other superintendents. I also have seen Skipper work effectively in leading our activities association as the president. Finally, he is a vital member of the Economics Arkansas Board, which impacts our students' financial literacy in our State. I know that Skipper's community loves him. He is passionate about having his students get an excellent education. He is innovative, detail-oriented, and effective!"

Congratulations to John Ward!