STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *school principals play an integral role in nurturing positive, student-centered cultures in elementary, middle, and high schools across the State of Illinois; and,*

WHEREAS, *school principals attract, support, and retain outstanding teachers and staff to ensure each child has equitable opportunities to reach their full potential; and,*

WHEREAS, *it is the primary responsibility of the State of Illinois to provide adequate and equitable resources for schools so that all students have access to a quality education and a foundation for future success; and,*

WHEREAS, *school principals understand the unique needs of their students, staff, and communities and must have the flexibility to exercise sound professional judgment in meeting those needs; and,*

WHEREAS, *school leaders influence student and adult performance by fostering a growth mindset, guiding research-based continuous improvement, and leading systemic organizational change; and,*

WHEREAS, *school leaders face many obstacles in supporting and educating young people, and through their perseverance, passion, and hope-filled leadership, Illinois continues to prepare quality, career-ready students; and,*

WHEREAS, *the Illinois Principals Association, representing over 7,000 educational leaders statewide, develops, supports, and advocates for innovative school leaders through professional development, networking, legislative advocacy, and the elevation of educators' voices in education policy;*

THEREFORE, *I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim the week of October 18-24, 2026, as* ***Principals Week*** *and Friday, October 23, 2026, as* ***Principals Day*** *in Illinois, to recognize principals and the Illinois Principals Association for all that they do to help our children learn and succeed.*

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this TWENTY-FIRST *day of* SEPTEMBER*, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* TWENTY-SIX*, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and* SEVENTH*.*

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR