

*Celebrate*



# Dr. Kimberly Rizzo Saunders *Superintendent of the Year*

**The 30th Annual New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards** recognize New Hampshire schools and individuals who meet high standards of excellence. The criteria used in selecting outstanding individuals to be honored are determined by their sponsoring organizations.

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## *About*

Dr. Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Superintendent of SAU #01 - Contoocook Valley School District, has been named the 2024 Superintendent of the Year by the NHSAA. Chosen for her selfless and tireless commitment to the students and staff of the ConVal School District, Dr. Rizzo Saunders is celebrated for her courageous advocacy for student rights and equitable funding. Under her stewardship since 2016, the district became the lead plaintiff in a pivotal lawsuit, challenging the state's fulfillment of its constitutional duty to fund public education adequately. This case, recently adjudged in favor of the district, underscored her dedication to improving educational opportunities for all students in New Hampshire. Dr. Rizzo Saunders's approach combines deep passion and knowledge with a contagiously enthusiastic commitment to public education and children's welfare. Her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies her effectiveness, swiftly transitioning to online learning and ensuring students returned to classrooms as soon as it was safe. Recognized for her exemplary service and advocacy, Dr. Rizzo Saunders's influence is a beacon for educational leadership and community impact.