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Ciancio named 2012 Colorado Superintendent of the Year

(Thornton/Denver) – Charlotte Ciancio, superintendent of the Mapleton Public Schools, was named the 2012 Colorado Superintendent of the Year by The Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE).

Nominated by the Mapleton Public Schools Board of Education, Ms. Ciancio was selected by a group of her peers for outstanding performance in leadership for learning; communication skills; professionalism; and community involvement. In her nomination packet, Board President Norma Frank credits her for leading, "a systems change and reinvention of a school district long before the notion of reform became popular."

Gilpin County Superintendent Tina Goar chaired the selection process and said, "Charlotte is an excellent role model for what a superintendent of schools needs to be in the 21st Century. To meet the learning needs of students, we must make transformational change within in our education system, and she has successfully done that." Goar also described Charlotte as a humble candidate, always giving credit for how far the School District has come to teachers, staff, leaders and families for the learning and achievement of students.

Ms. Ciancio became superintendent in Mapleton in 2001, at a time when the District was facing low and failing student achievement scores and graduation rates. Working with parents, school administrators, teachers, and community members, Ms. Ciancio implemented a massive reform and reinvention plan for the purpose of addressing access and achievement gaps. Traditional neighborhood schools were transformed into "small-by-design" schools tailored to meet the different learning needs of students. The result has been increased student engagement, improved test scores, and a higher level of college readiness. In 2009 and 2010, Mapleton was among the most improved districts in the Denver metro area on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) tests. Ms. Ciancio also actively seeks partner organizations in non-profit associations, local government, and law enforcement, and has secured millions of dollars in grant funds to improve all aspects of Mapleton's learning communities and provide students with the resources they need to realize their potential.

As Colorado's Superintendent of the Year, Ms. Ciancio is eligible to become the National Superintendent of the Year. The national winner will be announced in February.

About Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton Public Schools covers 25 square miles in North Denver/Adams County. We serve nearly 8,000 students in suburban, rural, and light industrial communities. We are committed to raising expectations by providing choices for learning and removing obstacles for all students so that we can guarantee that each student "achieves his or her dreams and enthusiastically contributes to his or her community and world." Visit www.mapleton.us to learn more about Mapleton Public Schools.

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