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Thornton Fractional District 215
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Thornton Fractional District 215 receives grant from Illinois State Board of Education to recruit future educators

Lansing, IL- This week the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) [announced the recipients](#) of their Education Career Pathways Grants for the purpose of recruiting and supporting future educators, and Thornton Fractional High School District 215 was among the ten recipients. The grant award of \$201,500 will assist District 215 in continuing to implement a “Grow Your Own” teacher pathway program to prepare interested students for a career in teaching.

District 215 will utilize the grant, in partnership with Governors State University, to offer two dual credit courses to juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a career in education: Foundations of Teaching and Educational Methodology. The funds will also be used to provide off-site practicum experiences, develop a teacher mentorship program, fund “Grow Your Own” grants or scholarships and will help support the activities of the district’s “Future Teachers Club,” which was formed earlier this year.

In July of 2020, District 215 adopted an [Equity Plan of Action](#) that includes a focus on diversifying staff. The district began plans to implement a program for students who may be interested in a career in education as one of the long-term approaches to recruiting minority staff members. Applicants for the grant submitted a plan to the Illinois State Board of Education on how they would use the funding to recruit students into education careers to help meet the high demand for teachers of color across Illinois.

The District 215 Board of Education voted to accept the grant award at a special meeting held on March 10, 2021. Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, superintendent of District 215, stated, “We are very excited about this initiative and grateful to ISBE for partnering with us in this important endeavor to recruit students into the teaching profession. We look forward to our continued partnership with Governors State University and IFT Local #683 as we implement the program.”

About Thornton Fractional High School District 215: District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning. The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

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