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District 215 Receives Property Tax Relief Grant

Lansing, IL: The historic school funding reform law passed in 2018 included a Property Tax Relief Grant that provided additional dollars in new state funds to provide property tax relief to communities of school districts that need it the most. This was the first time in history that these property tax relief grants have been funded.

School districts were ranked according to the relative tax burden of property owners within those districts, with eligibility being awarded "to those districts with the highest unit equivalent tax rate compared to all the districts that applied."

Thornton Fractional Township High School District 215 was one of 28 school districts in Illinois that was eligible to receive a grant designed to help relieve residents' property tax burden.

In order to receive the grant, school districts needed to agree to abate, or reduce, their property taxes up to a certain legal limit. The grant funds then offset a large part of that reduction.

According to Charles DiMartino, District 215 Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, the district applied for the grant and committed to reducing the 2018 tax levy by \$1,939,665, which was the maximum legal amount allowed.

After the district filed the tax abatement resolution in March, 2019, District 215 received \$1,906,225 in grant funds to offset the \$1,939,665 in lower property taxes for the community.

Superintendent, Dr. Teresa Lance, notes, "As a district, we not only strive for fiscal solvency, but also to be good financial stewards of taxpayer dollars. With this in mind, we are happy to provide a tax relief, albeit small, to our District 215 community members."

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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