



DANA ASHBY MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF ANY EMPLOYEE WHO WORKS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

The Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award has been established as a way to recognize any employee who works with special needs students (this is not limited to licensed personnel – it can be an aide, related services personnel (nurse, COTA), or non-certified personnel. This award, will be given annually in memory of Dana Ashby who was the Director of Special Education for Morton School District from 2007 until her unexpected death on December 30, 2015. She held the highest of expectations for all students, and through her professionalism, expertise and leadership, she deeply and positively impacted many lives both in the Morton School District and the community of Morton. Dana's legacy for the Morton School District, as well as for hundreds of students and families, is one of compassion, understanding, a listening ear, caring, love and respect for all individuals.

A district-selected committee will be responsible for gathering, organizing and screening nominations and will select the recipient to be honored with the award. Fellow colleagues, certified staff, parents, students or community members, may nominate staff members for this award. [The forms are available on the district website.](#)

The criteria for the Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award are:

- The nominee shall exemplify service above self
- The nominee shall work on behalf of special needs students
- The nominee shall advocate for inclusionary practices
- The nominee shall demonstrate a willingness to grow professionally to better serve special needs students
- The nominee shall demonstrate evidence of working to establish positive, caring and supportive relationships with students and their families