



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Jocelyn Rodriguez**  
Principal

Dear Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 Community,

The Governor's Educator of the Year Program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, exemplary teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. This celebratory program recognizes our state's best teachers and educational services professionals who will be recognized at the Union County Office of Education.

Honorees are exceptionally skilled and dedicated licensed classroom teachers (PK to grade 12 in a public or charter school) where teaching is the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities or educational services professionals (ESP) who are listed as one of the eligible enrollment areas. Among several eligibility criteria, they must also be experts in the field who inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn; actively collaborate with colleagues, students, and families to create a strong culture of respect and success; demonstrate leadership and innovation in educational activities; and have the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues.

We are proud to announce the 2024 Governor's Teacher of the Year for Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 was awarded to prekindergarten teacher **Ms. Gimena Cardenas-Arbelo**. Ms. Cardenas-Arbelo has been a member of Elizabeth Public Schools since 2016.

This year's Educational Service Provider of the Year for Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 was awarded to social worker **Ms. Margarita K. Torres**. Ms. Torres has been a member of Elizabeth Public Schools since 2010.

For more background on our Governor's Educator of the Year Program honorees, both at Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 and throughout the district, and how they are achieving excellence at our schools, please visit [www.epsnj.org/GEOY2024](http://www.epsnj.org/GEOY2024).

Please join us in celebrating these two amazing professionals for the work they have done, and continue to do, for our school community and district.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Rodriguez

---

**Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51**

544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207 • Ph: 908.436.6410  
Email: [rodrigjoc@epsnj.org](mailto:rodrigjoc@epsnj.org) • Website: [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)