

NOMINATION FORM

**2022-23 A Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year
AASA 2023 National Superintendent of the Year**

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Rhonda Schuhler

School System: Franklin Co.

Mailing Address: 53 West River Rd.

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Louisburg, NC 27549

Telephone: (Office: 919.496.2600 Cell: 919.340.3524)

Email: rhondaschuhler @ fcschools.net

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: Meghan Jordan

Relationship to Superintendent (i.e. board member, colleague, parent, community member): board member

School System: Franklin Co.

Mailing Address: 60 Rice Dr.

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Wake Forest, NC 27587

Telephone: (Office: Cell: 919.524.3459)

Email: meghanjordan @ fcschools.net

Please complete this form and a letter (no more than 2 pages) providing justification and supporting information for your nomination. The letter should include information about the nominee's leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, community involvement, and overall impact on the school district.

Mail or email the completed nomination form and supporting letter by **May 1st** to:

Ed Croom, Central Carolina RESA Executive Director

Mail: Central Carolina RESA, Suite 104, 7208 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27615

Or

Email: croome@ccresa.net

If you have questions, contact Ed Croom (croome@ccresa.net) or Dana Stutzman (stutzmandm@ccresa.net) at 919-882-5951.

Central Carolina RESA
Suite 104, 7208 Falls of Neuse Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27615

To Whom It May Concern,

Dr Rhonda Schuhler has earned the title of North Carolina State Superintendent of the year for her service to Franklin County Schools in the most trying time for public education in memory. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Dr. Schuhler has demonstrated courage, grace and dedication to the students, staff and families of our county despite obstacles unique to small districts in North Carolina including lack of internet connectivity, food insecurity, and staff shortages. Recognizing these challenges Dr. Schuhler was courageous and proactive in ensuring our students had devices within one week of leaving school in 2020, and when it was recognized that our students were not receiving an equal education at home she took decisive action to bring all students K-12 back to our buildings for 2 days per week in the Fall of 2020. This decision was made with careful consideration to ensure safety and despite many fears our students thrived and our staff remained safe. This decision allowed students to receive face to face instruction, social interaction, access to hot meals and weekend care packages. At that time this was a vital lifeline for our more vulnerable families. Despite this bravery, some in our community felt she did not do enough and came to board meetings to make that well known. At no point did her composure waiver, she continued to treat all citizens with the respect that they deserve and set a great example to students and adults in our community at many board meetings in the last 2 years. Additionally, given the chaotic times, Dr. Schuhler made sure to personally deliver video updates to our community explaining the NCDHHS guidelines and how our district would comply and still focus on high quality instruction.

Like other rural districts who have the challenge of recruiting and retaining teachers, Dr. Schuhler has the additional challenge of being a bordering district to Wake County which provides the constant threat of losing our highly qualified staff due to the differences in local supplement for teachers. Given this challenge, Dr. Schuhler recognizes the need to advocate and build relationships with our county commissioners to prioritize teacher's salaries and benefits.

Long before the pandemic, Dr. Schuhler made it a point to visit every classroom in our county and routinely eats lunch with groups of students to hear from our most important constituency, our students, about their experience in Franklin County Schools. This practice continued in

2021-22, demonstrating to our teachers and families how passionate she was for the success of their children. Rhonda believes strongly in the power of relationships across our community to raise the bar to allow for equity for all students. Dr. Schuhler has assembled a diverse leadership team where 50% of her cabinet are people of color. She takes time to praise the hard work and commitment of her central office staff and our Franklin County teachers in public and in private to our board members and our community in a variety of ways. I firmly believe that our district has been blessed to have Dr. Schuhler, a leader with unparalleled integrity, work ethic, vision and deep devotion to children, as our leader. I implore you to consider her for this great honor of Superintendent of the Year, as it is justly deserved.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meghan Jordan
Franklin County Board of Education Member - District 1