

NOMINATION FORM

**2021-22 A Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year
AASA 2022 National Superintendent of the Year**

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION

Name: Cathy Quiroz Moore

School System: Wake County Public School System

Mailing Address: 5625 Dillard Drive

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Cary, NC 27518

Telephone: Office: 919-533-7769 Cell: 919-600-8711

Email: cqmoore@wcpss.net

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: Keith Sutton

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

School System: Wake County Public School System

Mailing Address: 5625 Dillard Drive

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Cary, NC 27518

Telephone: Office: 919-533-7772 Cell: 919-600-8711

Email: ksutton@wcpss.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 (officemanager@ccresa.net) at 919-882-5951.



To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of Cathy Quiroz Moore's nomination for North Carolina Superintendent of the Year. Her leadership of the Wake County Public School System has been priceless throughout the pandemic. She has shown remarkable strength, steadfastness and courage as a public education leader.

Superintendent Moore set a tone of calm and consistency for our district and our community that has helped us meet a seemingly insurmountable challenge. She is a constant reminder of how grace and flexibility in unsteady times can win the day. Her focus on the task at hand remains sharp and resolute. Her heart is always in the right place, always thinking of what is best for the students, families and employees of our district.

I offer for your thoughtful consideration the following summary of Superintendent Moore's qualities and achievements in leading the Wake County Public School System.

Social and emotional learning first: One of Superintendent Moore's favorite quotes, "Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," by John C. Maxwell, has shaped her tenure at WCPSS. During the pandemic, she has prioritized resources, funding and staff to address social and emotional learning for all employees and students.

An emphasis on collaboration: Shortly before she was named to her current role, Superintendent Moore completed training in a program known as the Collaborative Operating System (COS). COS resonated with her values, providing a framework and a language for communicating her vision that WCPSS would operate as a collaborative organization. Without Superintendent Moore's values of collaboration and shared decision making as well as her willingness to embrace a new way of working and leading for our district through the COS, our district would not have been as prepared to lead collaboratively through the pandemic.

Vision for equity and equal opportunity: Superintendent Moore's vision for equity and equal opportunity has been transformative to how the district tackles decades-old achievement and opportunity disparities. She operates beyond the data points by bringing to life the experiences and narratives of students and families closest to inequities. Using her life's story as an immigrant to the United States, she models the promise of ensuring that all students have access to robust learning opportunities, the value in allowing students to maintain their cultural integrity in our schools, and the importance of students shaping their educational experiences.



A commitment to innovation: Superintendent Moore has long championed our award-winning magnet programs, and they have continued to thrive under her leadership. Most recently, the WCPSS Office of Magnet and Curriculum Enhancement Programs secured a \$14.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will support the addition of language immersion, language enhancement and global studies programs at four schools.

Student engagement in a virtual setting: Superintendent Moore led the academics team to establish a virtual learning effort unlike any seen in our state before. Within four months, the team was able to open a Virtual Academy that offered core instruction, plus a number of electives to more than half of the district's population. The Academy served 85,500 students who attended full time from home during the fall semester of the 2020-21 school year. In fact, if the Virtual Academy were its own school district it would be the third largest in the state.

COVID-19 decisions followed the data: Throughout the pandemic, Superintendent Moore was focused on the ultimate goal of returning safely to in-person instruction. She insisted on a data-based approach to COVID-19 related measures, with a focus on a partnership with health experts. To inform these decisions, she met regularly with the ABC Science Collaborative, Wake County Public Health and the NC Department of Health and Human Services. She also collaborated with fellow superintendents to both share information and learn from the work of others.

Equitable vaccine access for employees: Superintendent Moore recognized early that access to the COVID-19 vaccination was required to maintain the safety of our school-based staff. She advocated for an intentional strategy designed to ensure both accessibility and speedy access to the vaccine for those who wanted it. The district partnered with local health organizations to host 18 mass-vaccination events, resulting in more than 75% of employees being vaccinated in the first month the vaccine was available to educators.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination of Superintendent Cathy Quiroz Moore. She is the consummate leader - for now and for all times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Sutton".

Keith Sutton, Chair
Wake County Board of Education