

NOMINATION FORM

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

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Eric Bracy

School System: Johnston County Public Schools

Mailing Address: 2320 US 70 Business Hwy East

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Smithfield, NC 27577

Telephone: (Office: Cell:) (919)934-6035, (919)880-7784

Email: ericbracy@johnston.k12.nc.us or
superintendent@johnston.k12.nc.us

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: Senior Leadership Team:

Mr. Kendrick Byrd, Middle School Area Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Tonya Leathers, High School Area Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Patty Whittington, Elementary School Area Assistant Superintendent

Dr. David Pearce, Auxiliary and Administrative Services Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Nicholas King, Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Brooks Moore, Chief of Facilities and Construction

Mr. Stephen Britt, Chief of Financial Services

Mr. Brian Vetrano, Chief of Human Resources Officer

Mrs. Caitlin Furr, Executive Director of Communication

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

member): Senior Leadership Team

School System: Johnston County Public Schools

Mailing Address: 2320 US 70 Business Hwy East

City, State, ZIP/Postal Code: Smithfield, NC 27577

Telephone: (Office: Cell:) Email: (919)934-6031 x8046;

tonyaleathers@johnston.k12.nc.us

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.



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April 8, 2022

Dr. Ed Croom
Central Carolina RESA Executive Director
7208 Falls of Neuse Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27615

Dear Dr. Croom,

It is with great enthusiasm that we recommend Johnston County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Eric Bracy as Central Carolina Regional Education Service Alliance's 2023 Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Bracy began his career in public education as a fourth-grade teacher in Northampton County and his leadership was evident. Prior to Dr. Bracy's start in Johnston County, he served as a principal for Vance County Schools and Durham Public Schools. He has also served as the executive director of student support services in Durham Public schools, superintendent for Northampton County Schools for more than five years, as well as Superintendent in Sampson County Schools. Under his leadership as superintendent, Sampson County Schools dramatically improved student performance, despite being ranked 103 out of 115 school systems in terms of per-pupil appropriations and supplemental taxes. During his tenure, all of the schools in Sampson County came to meet or exceed expected growth. Dr. Bracy has led his school districts with high expectations and works to build a lasting future for all students.

Dr. Bracy stepped into the role of Superintendent for Johnston County Public Schools (JCPS), the 7th largest school district in the state situated in the fastest growing county in NC, during a very tumultuous time for the district. The ebbs and flows of the district were not something left out of the public eye, and Dr. Bracy never once shied away from those challenges. As soon as he was named Superintendent he took those challenges head-on and worked to build a stronger, more structured school district for the students, staff, and families of Johnston County. Public education across the country is something under strong criticism, and Dr. Bracy has worked to make JCPS a place where educators want to come to work and a place where academic achievement is the priority. It is with this focus and leadership that Johnston County Public Schools was able to move from 87th in the state in 2019 to 57th in the state at the end of 2021.

Over the past two years, Dr. Bracy has aligned the entire district around what Jim Collins would call a BHAG (Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal) of 100% of schools earning a letter grade of an A, B, or C by the end of 2024. He did not just give a goal but provided the support and a framework for meeting those goals, which include the following:

- A guaranteed, viable curriculum embedded in the JCPS Strategic Plan which has led to the first district-wide curriculum adoptions in nearly two decades;

- A comprehensive district-wide school and classroom level support structure including the hiring of 10 teaching and learning specialists, and the elevation of school improvement and support to the executive level of leadership;
- A comprehensive formative assessment system that has enabled data analysis and instructional planning based on reliable and dependable data at the district, school, and classroom level; and
- A Differentiated School Support Plan that provides interdepartmental support and data review to schools on a regular basis.

In addition to all of this, Dr. Bracy meets with each principal at least three times per year to review their goals and data. Dr. Bracy ends each of those conversations with, “How can I support you? What do you need to meet your goals?” His support is evident, but so are his high expectations for improving student achievement in JCPS.

JCPS ranks 111th out of 115 as far as per-pupil funding is concerned; yet, Dr. Bracy’s careful financial leadership focused squarely on operational efficiency, will lead to JCPS ending this school year with a significant fund balance. This has been made possible because of Dr. Bracy’s focus on maximizing all revenue sources and communicating the needs and effects of underfunding to all stakeholders. In the fall of 2021, Dr. Bracy was able to lead the board’s effort to garner \$7.9 million dollars in additional funding from the Johnston County Commissioners, the largest sum of supplemental funding ever to be allocated by the County Commissioners to JCPS. This money directly impacted the lowest-paid employees in the district, which is also a testament to Dr. Bracy’s leadership.

Dr. Bracy is one of those gifted individuals who is a born leader who actually “gets it”. He has a passion for teaching and learning, which is conveyed through all of his interactions. Dr. Bracy fully understands how school systems work and equally understands what it takes to ensure a school district is successful in all aspects. He puts in the time and effort to ensure excellence in all he tackles. Because of this and much more, we recommend Dr. Bracy as Central Carolina Regional Education Service Alliance’s 2023 Superintendent of the Year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kendrick Byrd, Middle School Area Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Tonya Leathers, High School Area Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Patty Whittington, Elementary School Area Assistant Superintendent

Dr. David Pearce, Auxiliary and Administrative Services Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Nicholas King, Chief Academic Officer

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