

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent Search: Candidate Presentation
March 16, 2022

Candidate: Dr. Jermall Wright

Dr. Jermall Wright is currently serving as Superintendent of Schools for the Mississippi Achievement School District, created by the Mississippi Board of Education to serve the two lowest performing school districts in the state: Yazoo City and Humphreys County Schools. Prior to the Mississippi Achievement School District, Dr. Wright served as Chief Academic and Accountability Officer in Birmingham Public Schools, where he was responsible for improving student achievement. In his role as Lead Instructional Superintendent in Denver Public Schools, Dr. Wright led the strategic planning and turnaround process of schools assigned to the Transformative Network. In addition, Dr. Wright has served as an Assistant Superintendent in Philadelphia, Principal in Washington, DC and Principal and classroom teacher in Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Wright earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Science and Secondary Education; a Master's in Educational Leadership; an Education Specialist degree in Special Education and Educational Administration; and a Doctorate of Education degree in Leadership for Educational Equity and Early Childhood Special Education.

As Superintendent, Dr. Wright accomplishments include: improving the graduation rate from 71% to 86% in Yazoo City and from 74% to 87% in Humphreys County; and restoring accreditation of the Yazoo City Municipal School District. In his role as Chief Academic and Accountability Officer in Birmingham City Schools, the number of F rated schools decreased from 22 to 6 and the number of schools rated a C or above from 6 to 17 and increased the district accountability grade from F to C in two academic years. As Instructional Superintendent in Denver Public Schools, 75% of the schools improved two performance tiers or more and none of the district schools were eligible for restart, closure or charter conversions. Dr. Wright was selected from a national applicant pool as an Early Childhood Special Education Leadership Specialist in a U.S. Department of Education funded project, receiving specialized federal policy experiences around bias, suspension and expulsion of young children that led to strategies to improve persistently low performing schools. The experiences and skillsets developed throughout his career has prepared him for superintendency in the Little Rock School District.

Dr. Wright's references describe him as an innovative, visionary leader that likes to tackle the hard problems. He is a strong instructional leader that is student focused with lots of experience, and knows what good instruction looks like. Dr. Wright is a great leader, but is clear that he is a member of a team. He works well with everyone from the bus drivers, to the administrative team, to the Board of Education. He is clear and respectful when helping the staff move the needle on improvements. Dr. Wright is personable, kind and has a great sense of humor.

In summary, Dr. Wright's successful experiences as a superintendent in Mississippi, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer in a large urban district, in addition to the endorsements from current and former supervisors, as well as others who know in depth his work ethic and skill sets make him a great match and fit for the Little Rock School District Superintendent profile. One issue was discovered during the interview process, which was successfully resolved. Therefore, we recommend that Dr. Jermall Wright be considered a candidate for Superintendent of Little Rock School District and be granted an interview.