

Keith A. Jones, Ed.D.

Educational Leader

Dedicated to Scholars' Educational Well-Being and Academic Excellence

PRINCIPAL | ADMINISTRATOR | STUDENT ADVOCATE | CULTURE CREATOR

Transformational educational leader with district-level impact, specializing in instructional improvement, culture and climate modification, and leadership development. Proven success supporting schools through complex challenges while driving sustainable, systemwide growth. Equally central to my leadership is the cultivation of a culture rooted in trust, accountability, and shared purpose. I am particularly skilled at developing leaders, coaching talent, and creating structures that allow others to grow, innovate, and lead with confidence. My leadership is defined by the ability to align instructional excellence with a healthy organizational culture, ensuring that both people and performance thrive.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DeKalb County School District—Decatur, Ga
Principal (DeKalb School of the Arts) 7/2022- Present

I currently lead a nationally ranked, audition-based high school with a specialized focus in the performing arts, where academic excellence and artistic achievement are equally prioritized. The school operates through a highly competitive application and audition process, attracting scholars who demonstrate exceptional talent, discipline, and commitment to their craft while meeting rigorous academic expectations. Central to the school's sustained success is a strong climate and culture rooted in high expectations, inclusivity, collaborations, and mutual respect. I have helped cultivate a learning community in which scholars consistently excel both academically and artistically at the highest levels.

- Lead a top ranked district high school, guiding systematic academic excellence and artistic achievement through transformational leadership and system-based instructional practices.
- Drive consistent academic growth across content areas, with notable improvements in Mathematics outcomes, by aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to data-informed schoolwide priorities.
- Cultivate a positive, inclusive school culture that elevates staff capacity, student engagement, and family trust—contributing to increased student enrollment and retention.
- Balance rigorous academics with high-level performing arts programming, ensuring whole-child development and equitable access to excellence.
- Appointed to the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, providing strategic guidance on instructional improvements, leadership development, and districtwide culture and climate initiatives.
- Serve on multiple district committees (Calendar Committee, Leadership Development Presenter for Aspiring Leaders) contributing expertise in improvement planning, equity-driven decision-making, and systematic change.
- Recognized as the **2025-2026 DCSD Principal of the Year** and **2025-2026 High School Principal of the Year** reflecting districtwide impact, instructional leadership, and commitment to transformational leadership.

DeKalb County School District—Decatur, Ga
Principal (Columbia Middle School) 7/2013- 6/2022

Honored to provide leadership and direct all aspects of instruction, administration, and fiscal management at a middle school with approximately 1,000 students. Led initiatives to improve curriculum, instruction, culture and climate leading to academic growth and development of overall student population. Manage co-curricular activities including awards ceremonies for honor students, cultural events, community events and assemblies. Supervise a staff of 113 teachers, guidance, paraprofessional and administrative personnel. Uphold a safe, respectful and fair learning environment.

- Earned a 2018 and 2019 “Beating the Odds” designation by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), 2019.
- Significantly increased overall CCRPI (College and Career Readiness Performance Index) scores over tenure as Principal from 47.5 to 70.4, 2019.
- Recognized as National PTA School of Excellence, 2019.
- Implemented “Community” initiative to increase student academic awareness, 2018.
 - Recommended by Regional Superintendent to serve on Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Committee, 2018.
 - Recognized as a DeKalb County Family Friendly School by the Office of Accountability, 2018.
 - Purchased nearly 200 student Chromebooks (1:1) to provide access to instructional resources and enhance student success, 2018.
 - Recognized by the Board of Education for increasing achievement levels and exiting Focus list for underperforming Title I schools, 2017.
 - National Beta School of Merit recipient, 2017.
 - Implemented PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), 2017.

DeKalb County School District- Decatur, GA

Assistant Principal

Martin Luther King, Jr. High School- 7/2009-6/2013

Miller Grove High School- 6/2006-6/2009

- Created best-practice staff development workshop on cultural competence, relationship building and instructional strategies to improve overall academic performance.
- Established a logistical efficiency plan that increased instructional time, reduced disciplinary issues, and improved overall safety and well-being of students and faculty.
- Assisted in development of student discipline management system which resulted in an increase in positive student behavior
- Evaluated and assessed teacher performance during observations and walk throughs.

EDUCATION

ARGOSY UNIVERSITY — Atlanta, GA

Doctorate Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, May 2009

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY — Jacksonville, AL

Educational Specialist in Leadership and Supervision, May 2005

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY — Jacksonville, AL

Master of Science Degree in Leadership and Supervision, May 2004

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY — Petersburg, VA

Bachelor of Art Degree in Music Education, May 1996

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- *National Education Association (NEA)*
- *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)*
- *National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASPP)*
- *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated*