

JACK R. SMITH
SUPERINTENDENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MD

Dr. Jack R. Smith was appointed interim state superintendent of schools and treasurer of the Maryland State Board of Education on September 14, 2015. A dedicated lifelong educator, Dr. Smith has been a classroom teacher, principal, curriculum director, and a local superintendent of schools.

Dr. Smith joined the Maryland State Department of Education as the chief academic officer for the Office of Teaching and Learning in August 2013. As the chief academic officer, Dr. Smith worked closely with local school systems, parents, businesses, teacher associations, institutes of higher education, and government agencies at both the state and national level to ensure high-quality teaching and learning takes place in Maryland public schools. Dr. Smith's steadfast goal has always been to provide all students, regardless of their learning needs, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, with options and choices upon graduation.

Dr. Smith's distinguished career in education began as a teacher at Hanford Secondary School in Richland, Washington. Later, he served three years as a middle and high school assistant principal for the school system and another four years as a principal, where he used his extensive experience in encouraging and helping teachers to learn and use effective, purposeful instructional strategies. In August of 1992, Dr. Smith and his family relocated to Tokyo, Japan where he had the privilege to serve as the principal of the Christian Academy in Japan, in Higashi Kurume, Tokyo. The Christian Academy educates children from kindergarten through 12th grade, and it provides an American-style education in English. The school has an exceedingly distinct student population, with students coming from more than 25 countries across the globe.

Upon his return to the United States in 1998, Dr. Smith became a middle school principal in Calvert County, Maryland. He spent four years at the helm of a middle school, taking a one year leave of absence to facilitate the launching of a boarding school in Thailand. Dr. Smith was named director of curriculum and instruction for Calvert County Public Schools in July 2002, followed by deputy superintendent of schools the subsequent year. Calvert County Public Schools chose him as its superintendent of schools in 2006, and he served as the county's superintendent for seven successful years.

Among Dr. Smith's many illustrious awards and honors, he was named Maryland Superintendent of the Year in 2013 and he received the 2010 Charge Agent Award from the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of College and Career Readiness. Dr. Smith is a member of Leadership Maryland's Class of 2011, and he has served on a variety of volunteer boards. A graduate of Eastern Washington University, with a bachelor's in English and Communications and a master's in School Administration, Dr. Smith received his Ph.D. in instructional leadership from Notre Dame of Maryland University.