



# FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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## **Barbara Jenkins Selected as Florida's 2017 Superintendent of the Year**

Tampa, FL – Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins was selected as Florida's 2017 Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Jenkins was formally recognized today in Tampa during the joint meeting of FADSS and the Florida School Boards Association.

Jenkins was appointed OCPS Superintendent in May 2012 and is now in her fifth year leading the 9th-largest school district in the United States. A seasoned education administrator with 25 years of experience, Jenkins previously served as OCPS Deputy Superintendent and OCPS Chief of Staff.

"Barbara is widely respected throughout Florida, not only by the superintendents of Florida, but by all who know her and have had the opportunity to work with her," states FADSS President and Escambia County Superintendent Malcom Thomas. Adding, "Undoubtedly this high level of respect is a clear reflection of her exemplary work ethic, and a true passion and dedication to always make decisions that are in the best interests of students," adds Thomas.

Under Jenkins' leadership, the district won the prestigious 2014 Broad Prize for Urban Education. Recognized for her commitment and influence, both the *Orlando Sentinel* and *Orlando Magazine* have recognized her as one of the 10 most powerful people in Central Florida; *Orlando Magazine* ranked her number five overall in 2015, and number two in the Education category in 2016. The *Orlando Business Journal* honored her as a CEO of the Year in 2015, and she served as the 2015-16 FADSS President.

"I am honored to represent the fine superintendents of Florida," states OCPS Superintendent Jenkins. "I am also extremely grateful for a phenomenal school board, talented leadership team, outstanding principals and teachers, and OCPS team members who lead our students to success every day," adds Jenkins.

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“Those who choose the path as a public school superintendent do so not for the glory but rather the opportunity to make a positive difference in children’s lives, and Superintendent Jenkins has certainly proved this time and again as she has diligently worked to raise the educational bar for Orange County Public Schools,” states FADSS Chief Executive Officer and Florida Senator Bill Montford. “Barbara is an asset to the Association and her leadership is valued by her colleagues throughout the state, in large part due to her ability to recognize the significant challenges statewide regardless of district size,” adds Montford.

The process for electing Florida’s Superintendent of the Year was established by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), a national organization of school superintendents and other educational leaders. In March 2017, Jenkins will represent all Florida superintendents at the AASA’s National Education Conference in New Orleans, LA where she will be recognized and honored for her public education service in Florida.

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*Photo caption (l to r): Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) President and Escambia County Superintendent Malcolm Thomas (left) and FADSS Chief Executive Officer Bill Montford (right) present the 2017 Superintendent of the Year Award to Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins (center).*

***Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is the 9th-largest district in the United States and the 4th-largest in Florida. Surrounding the city of Orlando, Orange County is 1,003 square miles and home to 1.29 million residents. Our student population is 38 percent Hispanic, 28 percent white, 27 percent black, five percent Asian, and two percent multicultural. As an urban district, many families struggle financially, with 69 percent qualifying for free- or reduced-price meals. Last year we had more than 6,800 students classified as homeless, the highest number in the state of Florida.***

*The mission of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents is to assist and support superintendents in providing leadership to ensure that every student in Florida acquires the skills, knowledge and attitude to be contributing members of our democratic society through leadership development programs focused on student achievement, building relationships with business and governmental leaders, and communication and networking services.*