



# FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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## **Richard Shirley Selected as Florida's 2013 Superintendent of the Year**

Tallahassee, FL – Sumter County School District Superintendent Richard “Rick” Shirley was selected as Florida’s 2013 Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Shirley was formally recognized in Tampa during the joint meeting of FADSS and the Florida School Boards Association.

Shirley was first elected Sumter County Schools Superintendent in 1996 and is now entering his fifth term. In addition to his 16 years of service as a school superintendent, Shirley has dedicated 21 years of service to public education as a middle school principal (three years), an elementary school principal (seven years), a curriculum assistant (four years) and one of the toughest, yet most rewarding jobs – a public school teacher (seven years).

“Rick’s background and path to the role of superintendent is grounded in first-hand experience, knowledge and a dedication to always make decisions that are in the best interests of students,” states FADSS President Wally Cox. “Rick is not only an exceptional superintendent with a proven track record of success; he is a true servant leader committed to educational excellence and he is very deserving of this award,” adds Cox.

“There is no doubt that selecting a single superintendent out of 67 is always a difficult task, especially given the caliber of school district superintendents that we have in Florida,” states FADSS Chief Executive Officer Bill Montford. “As a voice of experience, being a superintendent is one of the toughest public service jobs there is; but those who choose the path do so not for the glory but rather the opportunity to make a positive difference in children’s lives and we should applaud each and every one of them for their service,” 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 February 2013, Shirley will represent all Florida superintendents at the AASA’s National Education Conference in Los Angeles, California where he will be recognized and honored for his public education service in Florida.

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Photo caption: *2013 Florida Superintendent of the Year Rick Shirley (center), with Sumter County Schools, flanked by FADSS CEO Bill Montford (left) and FADSS President and Highlands County Schools Superintendent Wally Cox.*

*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.*