

EDGECOMBE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT NAMED 2022 A. CRAIG PHILLIPS NC SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



GREENSBORO | Dr. Valerie Bridges, Superintendent of Edgecombe County Public Schools (ECPS), was named the 2022 A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year at an awards ceremony held Thursday, Nov. 11.

The award is jointly presented annually by the [North Carolina Association of School Administrators \(NCASA\)](#), the [North Carolina School Superintendents' Association \(NCSSA\)](#) and the [North Carolina School Boards Association](#)

[\(NCSBA\)](#), with sponsorship by [Scholastic Education](#).

Dr. Bridges has worked in public education more than 30 years, serving in all levels from teacher to administrator. She became Superintendent of Edgecombe County Schools in 2017 and quickly implemented changes to foster an environment of inclusion and positivity, inspiring students in her district to achieve. Her efforts have led to a 70% increase in district schools meeting or exceeding growth requirements in the region.

"Dr. Bridges is a shining star and an example for students," said NCSSA Executive Director Jack Hoke. "Her diligent efforts have greatly improved the educational experience and outcomes in her district. She seeks constant improvement and creates a synergy of focus from teacher to student and from parents to school board members. I cannot think of a better recipient for this year's award."

Under Dr. Bridges' leadership ECPS has seen marked improvement in overall learning through the creation of the Micro School concept – a holistic approach tailored for the individual student to receive constant oversight and support, while also inspiring them to excel. Since the micro schools were implemented in 2018, participating students have continued to outscore their non-micro school peers significantly on every state assessment. In addition, student discipline referrals have also decreased by approximately 50%.

In a time when school boards and parents are often at odds, Dr. Bridges has helped create a collaborative effort between families and the school board by blending student and parent feedback into current and future ECPS strategic goals.

As the 2022 A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Bridges will compete at the national level for Superintendent of the Year at the [American Association of School Administrators' National Conference on Education](#) in Nashville, TN, Feb. 17-19, 2022.

Dr. Bridges was joined by seven other North Carolina Regional Superintendents

of the Year, all of whom were nominees for this prestigious state award. The following regional winners were honored at the Nov. 11 ceremony:

- **Region 1 | Northeast | Mr. Matthew Cheeseman, Beaufort County Schools**
- **Region 2 | Southeast | Ms. Lisa Jackson, Pamlico County Schools**
- **Region 3 | Central | Dr. Valerie Bridges, Edgecombe County Public Schools**
- **Region 4 | Sandhills | Dr. Aaron Fleming, Harnett County Schools**
- **Region 5 | Piedmont/Triad | Dr. Kim Morrison, Mount Airy City Schools**
- **Region 6 | Southwest | Dr. Andrew Houlihan, Union County Schools**
- **Region 7 | Northwest | Mr. Mark Byrd, Wilkes County Schools**
- **Region 8 | Western | Mr. Mark Garrett, McDowell County Schools**



ABOUT US

NCASA is a non-profit membership organization serving over 7,000 school administrators from across North Carolina and uniting 12 educational leadership groups with the common mission of ensuring student success through visionary leadership. www.ncasa.net

NCSSA, a core affiliate of NCASA, is the membership and professional development organization for superintendents from North Carolina's 115 public school districts. www.ncsuperintendents.org

NCSBA is a non-profit organization that represents the 115 local boards of education in North Carolina and the Cherokee Central School District. The organization seeks to provide leadership and services that enable local school boards to govern effectively. www.ncsba.org

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