

Southern Cayuga CSD Appoints John J. Lawrence as Superintendent of Schools

MEDIA SUMMARY:

The Southern Cayuga Central School District Board of Education plans to appoint John J. Lawrence, currently Principal of State Street Intermediate School in the Skaneateles Central School District, as its next Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Lawrence will begin his tenure on July 1, 2026. A seasoned educational leader with experience across multiple Central New York districts, he brings a strong focus on collaboration, student-centered decision-making, and continuous improvement.



Poplar Ridge, NY — The Southern Cayuga Central School District Board of Education plans to appoint John J. Lawrence as its next Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2026.

Mr. Lawrence currently serves as Principal of State Street Intermediate School in the Skaneateles Central School District, where he has led a grades 3–5 building since 2019. Over the course of his career, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success, collaborative leadership, and continuous improvement across multiple school systems in Central New York.

“Mr. Lawrence distinguished himself throughout the search process as a thoughtful, student-centered leader who values collaboration, trust, and integrity,” said Rachel McCarthy, President of the Southern Cayuga Board of Education. “His experience and vision align well with the district’s commitment to excellence and its strong connection to the community. We’re excited to welcome him to Southern Cayuga and look forward to working together to support our students and community.”

During his tenure in Skaneateles, Mr. Lawrence has led numerous initiatives to enhance instructional programming and student support systems, including the implementation of a new English Language Arts curriculum, expansion of inclusive special education practices, and the development of comprehensive Response to Intervention (RtI) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) frameworks. He has also contributed to districtwide planning efforts, including literacy action planning and cross-building collaboration.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Lawrence served as Principal of Lakeshore Road Elementary School in the North Syracuse Central School District and began his career as a physical education teacher in both West Genesee and Skaneateles Central Schools. He holds a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from Le Moyne College, a Master of Science in Health Education, and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from SUNY Cortland. He is also certified as a New York State School District Leader.

“I am grateful to the Southern Cayuga Board of Education and the interview committee members as we collectively begin this new chapter for the district and community,” said Lawrence. “I am

honored to lead this incredible school district and excited to be part of a community in the heart of the Finger Lakes.”

Lawrence continued, “I look forward to working alongside students, staff, and families to build upon the district’s strong foundation. Together, we will foster a culture focused on student success, collaboration, innovation, and high expectations for all.”

The Board of Education extends its sincere appreciation to the many students, staff, families, and community members who participated in the search process. Their time, thoughtful feedback, and commitment to the district played a critical role in informing the Board’s decision and ensuring an inclusive and representative process. The Board also plans to host an official “Meet & Greet” celebration later this spring to introduce Mr. Lawrence to the community.