



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Department of Education Announces State Superintendent of Camden City Schools to Become Assistant Commissioner

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce that Katrina McCombs, the State Superintendent of the Camden City School District, will become the Assistant Commissioner for the NJDOE’s Division of Early Childhood Services, effective July 1, 2025.

Superintendent McCombs is stepping down as the State Superintendent by mutual agreement, effective at the expiration of her contract on June 30, 2025. Cary Booker, the current Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Early Childhood Services, will transition to a new role in the Office of the Governor as a Senior Advisor, supporting inter-agency work in early childhood care and education.

“I would like to thank Superintendent McCombs for her exemplary leadership in Camden City School District over the past seven years,” **Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer said.** “Superintendent McCombs’s service to the students of Camden City over nearly thirty years exemplifies the dedication of a true lifelong educator. Superintendent McCombs will be an asset to the Division of Early Childhood Services.”

“I would also like to commend Cary Booker for his work as Assistant Commissioner of Early Childhood Services. Under his leadership, the number of school districts providing high-quality preschool to the students of New Jersey has more than doubled, moving the State forward toward the goal of universal preschool education for all children. I look forward to continuing to work with Cary in his new role,” **Commissioner Dehmer added.**

Superintendent McCombs is a product of the Camden City School District, having graduated from Camden High School in 1987. Following graduation from Lehigh University, Superintendent McCombs returned to Camden to work as an early childhood educator and has spent her entire educational career in Camden. After serving in various classroom roles, she became vice principal, and later, principal at Lanning Square Elementary School. In 2012, Superintendent McCombs became Director of Early Childhood, where she led Camden’s record levels of pre-k enrollment and supported the quality of early childhood education by investing in critical training for pre-k providers and early childhood educators.

Superintendent McCombs was appointed Acting State Superintendent in June 2018 and was appointed State Superintendent in April 2019. As State Superintendent, Superintendent McCombs oversaw the opening of Camden High School and the early stages of a new Eastside High School. She led the district through the safe reopening of Camden schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent McCombs’s tenure provided greater fiscal stability and improved district performance.

“It has been my profound honor to serve the Camden City School District for the past thirty years. Camden will always be my home – it is where my journey began as a student and where I found my passion for education,” **said State Superintendent Katrina McCombs.** “Any accomplishments made belong to all of us – the educators, students, families, and community members who believe in the potential of Camden’s children and work every day to create a brighter future for them. While I am stepping away from my current role, my commitment to education and to Camden families remains unwavering.”

The Department of Education will begin a search for Superintendent McCombs’s successor. In the interim, an Acting State Superintendent will be named to aid the district in the transition to new leadership and to continue moving the district forward.



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