



State of New Jersey
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution
January 17, 2024

Resolution in Honor of Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan

Whereas, Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan has served with distinction as New Jersey’s Acting Commissioner of Education from October 2020 to the present, and is being honored for her tenure of service; and

Whereas, Dr. Allen-McMillan has devoted her professional career to the betterment of public education, having previously served as a substitute teacher in Essex County, founder of the Marion P. Thomas Charter School in Newark, assistant principal and principal in the South Orange-Maplewood School District, assistant superintendent in both Irvington Public Schools and Newark Public Schools, and as Interim Executive County Superintendent for Morris County; and

Whereas, Dr. Allen-McMillan, a parent of three, also served on the Montclair Board of Education and volunteered as a PTA Executive Board member while her children were in elementary school, has served as a board of education member of the Morris County Vocational School District and as a trustee for the County College of Morris; and

Whereas, Dr. Allen-McMillan took the helm as Acting Commissioner of Education during a time when schools throughout New Jersey were transitioning to the return of in-person instruction in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and, as such, she unveiled “The Road Forward” policy initiative to serve as a road map to identify and address the academic and mental health impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic had upon students and educators; and

Whereas, Dr. Allen-McMillan continued to champion efforts for educational recovery in the post-pandemic world through efforts such as serving as the architect of the New Jersey Partnership for Student Success, a multi-pronged effort designed to accelerate learning, build partnerships between schools and volunteers, address youth mental health, empower educators, and promote universal preschool; implementing grants and programs to address student learning acceleration; strengthening the pipeline of school-based mental health personnel, publishing a school-based mental health resource guide, and launching the Enhancing School Mental Health Services Project; and

Whereas, Dr. Allen-McMillan saw other major milestones during her tenure as Acting Commissioner, such as the instruction of climate change across multiple content areas in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, a return of full local control to Paterson Public Schools in January 2021 and Jersey City Public Schools in 2022, a student art installation that helped students express their post-pandemic feelings through art, and efforts to address the challenges of the teacher shortage; and

Whereas, Dr. Allen-McMillan provided leadership for the Department to take on numerous initiatives to foster equity, such as the development of resources and regulations encouraging diversity, equity and inclusion; a pilot program and accompanying funding to encourage restorative justice programs in schools; encouraging diversity in the teacher workforce through initiatives such as the “Men of Color Hope Achievers” partnership to recruit and place men of color in teaching positions; and

working across State agencies to establish guidelines to address bias in K-12 schools and discrimination in school discipline; and

Whereas, that after a professional lifetime dedicated to the betterment of education, Dr. Allen-McMillan is retiring from her post as New Jersey's Acting Commissioner of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, that it is both fitting and proper that the New Jersey State Board of Education express its gratitude to Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan for her years of dedication to the service of students in New Jersey and to her leadership as Acting Commissioner; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby honors Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan for her service to the State and extends best wishes for her success and happiness in her new endeavors.

Kathy Goldenberg, President
N.J. State Board of Education