



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DIANE WATKINS EDWARDS NAMED INTERIM CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER



The School Board of Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) approved Superintendent Dr. Jared Cotton's recommendation to appoint Mrs. Diane Edwards as the Interim Chief Academic Officer during the April 25, 2022, School Board Meeting.

Mrs. Edwards has been with Chesapeake Public Schools for twenty-seven years and has a total of thirty-two years in education. She has previously held positions as a special education teacher, a special education coordinator and an assistant principal at E.W. Chittum Elementary School. Mrs. Edwards' experience also includes working as a Staff Assistant in Personnel and in Curriculum and Instruction. She also served as an elementary school principal at four

schools and Program Administrator for Title I. Most recently, she has spent eight years as Director of Assessment and Accountability.

Mrs. Edwards' work in Chesapeake Public Schools has long been focused on ensuring the quality of the teaching and learning in the district. As she says, "I am honored and humbled to have been selected. For nearly 30 years, I have held numerous positions in Chesapeake Public Schools and enjoyed each one. In my new role, my goal is to support the efforts of our instructional staff and combine our varied talents to continue to provide the foundation for all of our students to have the most optimal learning experiences possible." Mrs. Edwards will assume her new position as of June 1, 2022.

Mrs. Edwards holds a bachelor's degree in special education from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Old Dominion University.

Dr. Jared Cotton, Superintendent commented, "I am excited that an instructional leader of Diane Edwards' caliber will take on this important role, and I know that she will continue to expand and enhance the instructional programs already underway in CPS."