

Dr. Steven M. Constantino **Superintendent, WJCC School Division**

Dr. Steven M. Constantino joined the Williamsburg-James City County School Division as Superintendent of Schools on Feb. 1, 2011, with a vast amount of public school, university, and research experience as well as a national perspective on engaging families in the academic lives of their children.

Prior to joining WJCC, Dr. Constantino served in the executive administration of the Cobb County School District (GA), most recently as deputy superintendent. Dr. Constantino's accomplishments in Cobb County included developing a comprehensive district-wide strategic plan that encompassed a complete framework for student learning and the operations of the school system -- from the public, to the board of education, to the classroom. He also developed an academic plan to specifically target the district's weaknesses related to Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act, resulting in significant gains in subgroup achievement. In 2010, 91 percent of Cobb County schools made AYP, compared to 86 percent in 2008. The district's graduation rate also rose from 83 percent in 2008 to more than 87 percent in 2010. Dr. Constantino also partnered with a local university to develop an \$8 million grant to improve teacher quality.

Dr. Constantino earned a bachelor of music and a master of music degree from the State University College of New York at Potsdam and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from the State University of New York at Cortland. In 2002, he received a doctorate of education in educational leadership and policy study from Virginia Tech. He began his educational career as a band director, leading many instrumental music programs to regional and national success. He is the former District Director of Fine Arts for the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools (NY) and was a high school assistant principal in both New York and Virginia. Dr. Constantino also was a part-time, then full time, professor of education at George Mason University in Fairfax, where he taught graduate courses in educational leadership and policy study.

From 1995 to 2003, Dr. Constantino served as principal of Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas. Stonewall achieved much success, both nationally and internationally during Dr. Constantino's tenure. Student achievement consistently improved and the school became one of the largest and most successful International Baccalaureate schools in the world, with 87 percent of the students scoring at or above the world mean on 16 examinations.

Dr. Constantino is the 1997 Principal of the Year, awarded by the Virginia State Counseling Association and is the 2000 recipient of the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. In March 2000, and again in May 2003, Stonewall Jackson High School was listed among the nation's "Top 100 high schools" in *Newsweek* magazine. The May 2001 issue of *Time* magazine announced Stonewall Jackson as its "High School of the Year."

Dr. Constantino is a national thought-leader in the area of family engagement in education and has authored three books on the topic: "Making Your School Family Friendly" (2002); "Engaging All Families" (2003); and "101 Ways to Create Real Family Engagement" (2008). He has also authored several articles that have appeared in publications both in the United States and abroad.