



122110-Constantino

**CONTACT:** Greg Davy  
Communications Specialist  
(757) 253-6759

## **DR. STEVEN M. CONSTANTINO APPOINTED AS WJCC'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT; WILL ASSUME DUTIES FEB. 1, 2011**

(For larger version of the photo, please visit the W-JCC "Press Room" by clicking [HERE](#))

**Williamsburg, VA, Dec. 21** – The Williamsburg-James City County School Board has hired a highly respected educator and family engagement expert to be the next superintendent of the school system. Dr. Steven M. Constantino, currently deputy superintendent of the Cobb County School District in suburban Atlanta, will join WJCC on Feb. 1, 2011.

"I believe our students, our staff, and our community will be very impressed with Dr. Constantino," said School Board Chairman James P. Nickols. "He's a high-energy educator who understands what needs to happen in the classroom, and who's personable and can relate well to our faculty. At the same time, he's a strong communicator who really knows how to engage and involve parents and school communities. I think he's going to be an excellent fit to take our schools to the premier level we believe we can reach."

Dr. Constantino, 52, has served in the executive administration of the Cobb County School District, most recently as deputy superintendent, since July 2008. With 107,000 students and 114 schools, the Cobb County School District is the second largest school system in Georgia and one of the 25 largest school systems in the nation. As deputy superintendent, Dr. Constantino oversees Cobb County's six area assistant superintendents, as well as the Human Resources,



*Dr. Steven M. Constantino*

(MORE)

**Constantino**  
**Page 2**

Curriculum & Instruction, Special Student Services, Student Support, Transportation and Athletics departments, operations that comprise more than \$300 million of the school district's budget.

Dr. Constantino's accomplishments in Cobb County include developing a comprehensive district-wide strategic plan that encompasses 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 partnered with a local university to develop an \$8 million grant to manage teacher quality, and he also developed a streamlined approach to running district-wide professional leadership meetings that built a more trusting and productive network between local schools and central administration.

"I am thrilled to join a community that clearly values education," said Dr. Constantino. "A large part of my educational career has been in Virginia, and I am glad to be back. I look forward to meeting the faculty and staff of this outstanding school system, and getting to know the families and community that support it so well. With the tremendous resources that are available in Williamsburg and the surrounding area, I see the potential for the students and the school system to accomplish great things."

Dr. Constantino earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music 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.

(MORE)

## Constantino

### Page 3

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. During Dr. Constantino's tenure, Stonewall Jackson High School 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 IB examinations.

Dr. Constantino was named the 1997 Principal of the Year 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 announced Stonewall Jackson as its "High School of the Year."

As a national consultant, Dr. Constantino provided numerous keynotes, presentations, and workshops at national and regional conferences on the subject of family engagement in education. Dr. Constantino has written three books on the topic of family engagement: *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. In 2007, Dr. Constantino was invited by the Victorian Ministry of Education (Australia) to work with school principals on engaging families, and in 2008 traveled to Shanghai, China, to present his work to the International Confederation of Principals.

"We are fortunate to have been able to hire a leader with such extensive and noteworthy educational experience," said Nickols. "I believe our community will have a high level of trust and confidence in his skills. I am truly excited to let Dr. Constantino get to work on realizing the unique potential for academic success that exists in WJCC."

Dr. Constantino and his wife, Peggie, have a grown son.

(MORE)

The process of hiring a new WJCC superintendent began in May 2010 when the school system partnered with the Virginia School Boards Association to undertake a nationwide search. The process netted 26 applicants, of whom seven highly qualified candidates were interviewed.

# # #