



2026

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

WELLS
FARGO



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

OUR SPECIAL APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO SPONSORS WHO MAKE THE PROGRAM POSSIBLE:

**WELLS
FARGO**

Wells Fargo — Wells Fargo is a leading financial services firm offering a broad range of banking, investment, and mortgage solutions, in addition to consumer and commercial financing. We are committed to contributing to a strong economy that is built on thriving communities. We look for ways to bring the breadth of our company's resources and expertise to help address community needs and spark transformation. We are focused on three priorities: housing access and affordability, business growth, and financial opportunity. In 2025, Wells Fargo & Company and Wells Fargo Foundation philanthropic giving totaled roughly \$278 million to more than 1,700 organizations in support of housing, business growth, financial opportunity, and more. Employees volunteered more than 922,000 hours.



Carolina Hunger Initiative — Our mission is to increase access to healthy food for North Carolinians. The Carolina Hunger Initiative is a project at the UNC Center for Health

Promotion and Disease Prevention and works in collaboration with No Kid Hungry NC. We use programming, applied research, and compelling communications to support policy, systems, and environmental changes. From innovative ways to serve school breakfast and summer meals for kids, to nutrition classes empowering elementary students, we are connecting people with the food they need to thrive. Learn more at CarolinaHungerInitiative.org.



Education First — Education First is proud to have a longstanding relationship with the Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Award – it is a relationship built on valuing the fantastic educators and administrators across the

state of North Carolina that bring their schools to life and have dedicated their careers to the next generation of global citizens. EF's mission is to open the world through education.



Jostens — Minneapolis-based Jostens provides products, programs and services that help people tell their stories, celebrate important traditions and recognize achievements. Jostens

is the most trusted partner in helping customers to celebrate moments that matter. The company's products include school yearbooks and pictures, scholastic products such as class rings, graduation products, letter jackets and products for athletic champions and their fans. Jostens partners with schools across the country and internationally, and helps bring their mission, vision, and values to life through their Branding Initiatives — They strive every day to help Faculty & Students not only express it on the walls but live it in the halls. Jostens is a subsidiary company of Platinum Equity.

Lenovo

Lenovo — Lenovo is committed to supporting educators. Focused on a bold vision to deliver smarter technology for all, we are developing

world-changing technologies that create a more inclusive, trustworthy, and sustainable digital society. As a global industry leader in the education market, Lenovo is committed to making a difference in support of teachers, students, classrooms, and education through related initiatives focused on community investments and collaborative partnerships. For 20 years, Lenovo has called North Carolina our home – one of our two global headquarters is located in Morrisville and our U.S. Fulfillment Center is located in Guilford County.



NC Digital Learning Initiative — The Digital Learning Initiative focuses on providing digital teaching and learning supports and resources for North Carolina Public School Units.

These supports include: designing and implementing the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan, providing professional learning around Digital Teaching and Learning pedagogies and resources, curating and developing resources related to the goals established in the Digital Learning Plan, conducting research to inform the design of Digital Teaching and Learning professional learning and resources. The work that is completed under the Digital Learning Initiative is done with support from the North Carolina State Legislature.



North Carolina Principal of the Year Network — The North Carolina Principal of the Year Network is dedicated to celebrating and advancing school leadership across

the state. Through advocacy, mentorship, and professional development, the network supports principals in their mission to create thriving school communities. By showcasing success stories, promoting the recruitment and retention of exceptional school leaders, and championing policies that strengthen public education, the network aims to ensure that every student in North Carolina has access to a high-quality education led by visionary and effective leadership.



Truist Leadership Institute — Truist Leadership Institute provides programming for public school principals that focuses on developing

leadership, leading change, and engaging staff members. Our educational leader programs are offered to NC public school principals at no cost. Our goal is to help educational leaders produce impact through developing deeper awareness of the factors that form the individual, and how these guide decision-making, interactions, and leadership approach. Empowering our educational leaders is one important way that we live our purpose to "inspire and build better lives and communities." Interested in learning more? Visit us on the web at TruistLeadershipInstitute.com.

AWARD CEREMONY

— LUNCHEON —

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ELIZABETH SANTAMOUR • Educator Recognition Coordinator,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

GREETINGS

ALAN DUNCAN • Vice Chairman, State Board of Education

REMARKS

CHAD GREGORY • Regional Branch Network Executive, Wells Fargo

REFLECTIONS

JASON JOHNSON • 2025 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

CELEBRATION OF PRINCIPALS

JOSH STEIN • Governor of North Carolina

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL FINALISTS

JASON JOHNSON • 2025 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

REMARKS

MAURICE “MO” GREEN • State Superintendent,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2026 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

JUAN AUSTIN • Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Philanthropy & Community Impact

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

2026 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

CLOSING AND DISMISSAL

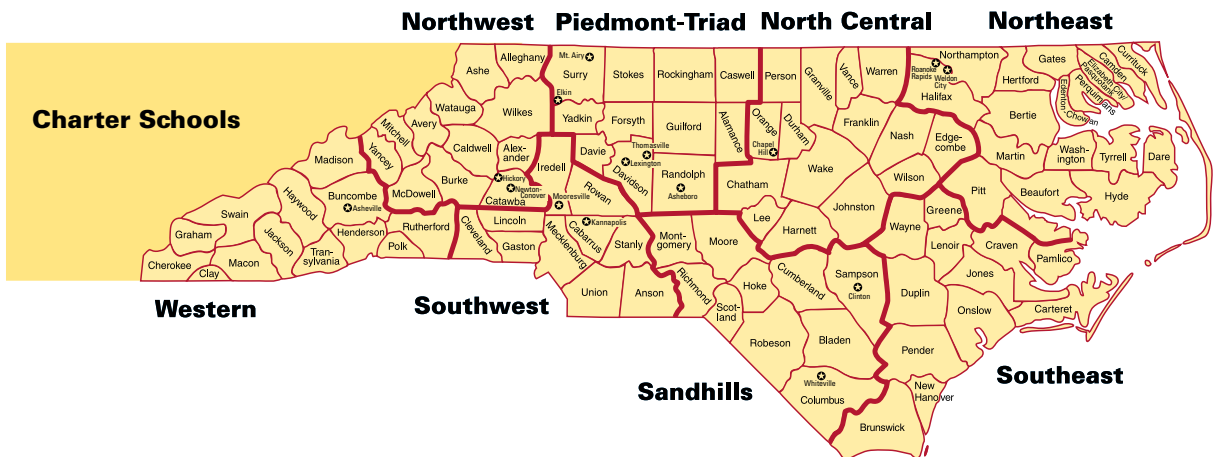
ELIZABETH SANTAMOUR • Educator Recognition Coordinator,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Following the ceremony, finalists and sponsors will gather on the terrace for photos.

WELLS FARGO NC PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR PROGRAM

Established in 1984, the Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Program honors principals who create and sustain environments where students and educators thrive. Sponsored by the Wells Fargo Foundation in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, this prestigious recognition celebrates exceptional school leaders across the state. The program highlights principals who exemplify excellence in leadership, recognizing their impact while inspiring continued growth in educational leadership across North Carolina.

The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year serves as a voice for the state's principals, working closely with Regional Principals of the Year to form a dynamic leadership team. Together, they embrace opportunities to advocate for the profession, elevate the principalship, and share best practices. This collaborative network not only amplifies individual achievements but also fosters a strong, supportive community of educational leaders across the state.



2026 STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Identifying a statewide representative for North Carolina's principals is both an important and challenging responsibility. Members of the state selection committee are thoughtfully chosen for their deep understanding of and commitment to educational leadership. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education are proud to honor principals who are driving innovation, fostering growth, and making a lasting impact in their school communities. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the selection committee for their thoughtful deliberation, time, and steadfast dedication to recognizing excellence in school leadership.

DR. PATRICK GREENE • 2022 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

KIMBERLY JONES • 2023 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

SUZIE KOONCE • Community Relations Lead Consultant,
Wells Fargo Philanthropy & Community Impact

CHRISTIE NORRIS • Director of Education,
NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NORTHEAST REGION



KELLY E. FLORA

Northeast Region Principal of the Year

Nags Head Elementary
Dare County Schools

“Leading NHES has been, by far, my greatest professional accomplishment – a journey defined by resilience, collaboration, innovation, and the joy of seeing our students and staff thrive.”

- 10 Years of Administrative Experience
- Barton College (BS, BA)
- Gardner-Webb University (MA)
- Liberty University (Ed.S.)
- DCS Teacher Recruitment and Retention Committee Member
- DCS NC Pre-K Committee Member

Northeast REGION WINNERS

LYNN WHITTINGTON

Chocowinity Primary
Beaufort County Schools

WILLIAM PEELE, III

Bertie High
Bertie County Schools

KIERSTEN SCHIFFBAUER

Grandy Primary
Camden County Schools

SHAROLYN HARRY-CLARK

Central Elementary
Currituck County Schools

ANGIE WALSTON

DF Walker Elementary
Edenton-Chowan Schools

LA'SHEKIA BROTHERS

Central Elementary
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank
Public Schools

LOVIE ROSCOE

T. S. Cooper Elementary
Gates County Schools

TONYA HEDGEPEETH

Inborden Elementary STEAM Academy
Halifax County Schools

ELENIA RIDDICK

Ahoskie Elementary
Hertford County Public Schools

GRANTLEY MIZELLE

Martin County High
Martin County Schools

MICKEY DREW

Perquimans County High
Perquimans County Schools

DR. MICHAEL CASEY

Ayden Elementary
Pitt County Schools

JANCE MOODY

Roanoke Rapids Early College High
Roanoke Rapids Graded School District

DIANNE STOKES

Washington County High
Washington County Schools

JEANNIE ROBERSON

Roanoke Valley Early College
Weldon City Schools

SOUTHEAST REGION



DR. MARLOW ARTIS

Southeast Region Principal of the Year

Craven Early College High
Craven County Schools

“Instructional leadership is the heartbeat of an early college environment. The academic rigor and success of our students are directly tied to the instructional expertise of our teachers and the systems in place to support their growth.”

- 8.5 Years of Administrative Experience
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA)
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington (MSA)
- Western Carolina University (Ed.D.)
- Completed NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program
- Creator, Chief Content Purveyor, & Moderator of Tar Heel Teachers

Southeast REGION WINNERS

REBECCA HEITZ

Town Creek Middle
Brunswick County Schools

JAMES WESTBROOK

East Carteret High
Carteret County Public Schools

DR. THOMAS NICHOLS

Wallace-Rose Hill High
Duplin County Schools

TAYLOR MOORE

Greene Early College
Greene County Schools

DR. MIRANDA (MANDI) GILLIS

Maysville Elementary
Jones County Public Schools

TERRY WOOTEN

Rochelle Middle
Lenoir County Public Schools

ROSEMARIE WHEELER

Dr. Hubert Eaton Sr. Elementary
New Hanover County Schools

KELLY CLARKE

Heritage Elementary
Onslow County Schools

SAVANNAH ALEXANDER

Pamlico County Primary
Pamlico County Schools

JILL ROBERTSON

North Topsail Elementary
Pender County Schools

KARLA SMITH

Carver Elementary
Wayne County Public Schools

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



DR. MARIAH WALKER

North Central Region Principal of the Year

Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy
Wake County Public School System

"Instructional excellence is more than a process; it is a lived mindset. Students know their voices matter, their experiences shape instruction, and their potential is recognized daily. Teachers embrace ongoing growth, reflecting on practice with candor and purpose."

- 13 Years of Administrative Experience
- North Carolina State University (BA, MSA, Ed.D.)
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- North Carolina Parent Teacher Association Member
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Member

North Central REGION WINNERS

KAREN GALASSI-FERRER

Frank Porter Graham Bilingue
Elementary
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

MARY MARGARET DARK

Chatham Central High
Chatham County Schools

DR. VANESSA ALFORD

C.C. Spaulding Elementary
Durham Public Schools

BILLY STROTHER

South Edgecombe Middle
Edgecombe County Public Schools

CHRIS CULLOM

Bunn Elementary
Franklin County Schools

ANTHONY DICKENS

Phoenix Academy
Granville County Public Schools

JENNIFER BLACK

Harnett Central Middle
Harnett County Schools

DR. TAKICEY DUNSTON

Benson Elementary
Johnston County Public School

AIMEE PETRARCA

West Lee Middle
Lee County Schools

THOMAS MCGEACHY

Nash-Rocky Mount Early College High
Nash County Public Schools

KRISTIN MATTISON-WILLIAMSON

Pathways Elementary
Orange County Schools

DWAYNE JOHNSON

Woodland Elementary
Person County Schools

DR. CARNETTA THOMAS

EM Rollins Elementary
Vance County Schools

MICHELLE DUNBAR

Warren County Middle
Warren County Schools

ANNETTE FAISON

Vick Elementary
Wilson County Schools

SANDHILLS REGION



DR. LATREICIA ALLEN

Sandhills Region Principal of the Year

John Griffin Middle
Cumberland County Schools

“I believe trust flourishes when all voices, including teachers, students, and families, are heard and empowered. Transparent, consistent communication is foundational. I create meaningful opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to school improvement through feedback, leadership teams, opportunities to propose innovative solutions to challenges.”

- 9 Years of Administrative Experience
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA)
- University of Texas at San Antonio (M.Ed.)
- Fayetteville State University (MSA, Ed.D.)
- Completed NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Member

Sandhills REGION WINNERS

MARCUS EDGE

Bladen Early College High
Bladen County Schools

ANGELA HARDING NEWKIRK

Butler Avenue Elementary
Clinton City Schools

SHELLY CULLIPHER

Nakina Middle
Columbus County Schools

LESLIE NEAL

SandHoke Early College High
Hoke County Schools

JON LACHANCE

Page Street Elementary
Montgomery County Schools

JULIE MACPHERSON

Sandhills Farm Life Elementary
Moore County Schools

CLYDE LEVINER

Purnell Swett High
Public Schools of Robeson County

VALERIA “JOY” WATSON

West Rockingham Elementary
Richmond County Schools

GAYNOR HAMMOND

Midway High
Sampson County Schools

CHARLOTTE MCMILLIAN

Carver Middle
Scotland County Schools

PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION



DR. DARRELL A. HARRIS JR.

Piedmont-Triad Region Principal of the Year

Eastern Guilford High
Guilford County Schools

“Leadership at EGHS is not about perfection — it’s about presence, purpose, and partnership. By fostering trust, elevating voice, and celebrating growth, we create a school culture where everyone belongs, and everyone leads. This is the kind of leadership that moves schools forward — and the kind I strive to embody every day.”

- 13 Years of Administrative Experience
- Hampton University (BS)
- North Carolina A&T State University (MS)
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (PMC, Ed.D.)
- GCS Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Committee Member
- GCS Superintendent’s Transition Planning Team Member

Piedmont-Triad REGION WINNERS

ERIN MILLSPAUGH

Altamahaw Ossipee Elementary
Alamance-Burlington School System

CHRISTOPHER BURIAN

South Asheboro Middle
Asheboro City Schools

LANCE STOKES

Bartlett Yancey Senior High
Caswell County Schools

ANNA RUTH CROUSE

Tyro Middle
Davidson County Schools

ELISABETH BOLICK-SPILLMAN

Pinebrook Elementary
Davie County Schools

AMANDA BURTON

Elkin High
Elkin City Schools

JOE STONE

Lexington Middle
Lexington City Schools

CHELSEY PAYNE

BH Tharrington Primary
Mount Airy City Schools

DENNIS HAMILTON

Providence Grove High
Randolph County School System

KELLY NELSON-DANLEY

Moss Street Elementary
Rockingham County

DAVID DURHAM

Stokes Early College High
Stokes County Schools

LORI GAMMONS

White Plains Elementary
Surry County Schools

JENNIFER TALLANT

Thomasville Primary
Thomasville City Schools

ROBERT ASH

Speas Global Elementary
Winston-Salem/Forsyth
County Schools

CHRIS LYON

Yadkin Early College
Yadkin County Schools

SOUTHWEST REGION



LATRESHA WILSON

Southwest Region Principal of the Year

Tuckaseegee Elementary
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

“At Tuckaseegee, operational excellence is not just about smooth logistics but about creating systems that free teachers to teach, support students’ needs, and keep our school’s mission and vision at the center of everything we do. Our vision is to provide excellent instruction, social-emotional support, and family engagement to create an environment focused on high expectations and student success.”

- 8 Years of Administrative Experience
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (BA)
- Gardner-Webb University (MSA)
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Member

Southwest REGION WINNERS

HEATHER GERALD

Wadesboro Primary
Anson County Schools

RICHARD WELLS

W.M. Irvin Elementary
Cabarrus County Schools

JENNIFER ABERLY

Burns High
Cleveland County Schools

JAIME WALLACE

Woodhill Elementary
Gaston County Schools

NICHOLAS ALLEN

Lake Norman High
Iredell-Statesville Schools

MICHELLE TIESI

Fred L. Wilson Elementary
Kannapolis City Schools

KELLIE DELLINGER

Union Elementary
Lincoln County Schools

CHERYL DORTCH

South Elementary
Mooresville Graded School District

DR. CORY STIREWALT

Bostian Elementary
Rowan-Salisbury Schools

BEVERLY PENNINGTON

Albemarle High
Stanly County Schools

DR. BRIAN PATIENCE

Sun Valley Middle
Union County Public Schools

NORTHWEST REGION



DUSTIN FARMER

Northwest Region Principal of the Year

Ashe County High
Ashe County Schools

“At the end of the day, our mission is to ensure that every child who walks through our doors finds an adult who believes in them, a pathway that fits them, and a school that refuses to give up on them. When we get this right, we don’t just change test scores — we change lives. This is my purpose as an educator.”

- 13 Years of Administrative Experience
- Virginia Polytechnic and State University (BS)
- Appalachian State University (MSA)
- Ashe Post and Times Best of the Best School Principal
- Served on State Employee’s Credit Union Advisory Board
- Pastor of Sugar Tree Baptist Church

Northwest REGION WINNERS

AMY DAIGLE

West Alexander Middle
Alexander County Schools

TRAVIS STURGILL

Alleghany High
Alleghany County Schools

CAROLINE JOHNSON

Hildebran Elementary
Burke County Public Schools

DAWN DEMAURO

Sawmills Elementary
Caldwell County Schools

KYLE STOCKS

St. Stephens High
Catawba County Schools

KQISHA DAGENHART

Oakwood Elementary
Hickory City Schools

ERIN RAYFIELD

McDowell Early College
McDowell County Schools

KRISTIE AUTREY

Mitchell Elementary
Mitchell County Schools

SHANE WHITENER

Discovery High
Newton-Conover City Schools

RICKY WARD

Watauga Virtual Academy
Watauga County Schools

NIKKI PATRICK

Millers Creek Elementary
Wilkes County Schools

DARON WILLIAMS

Mountain Heritage High
Yancey County Schools

WESTERN REGION



JENNIFER MCBRAYER

Western Region Principal of the Year

CHASE Middle School
Rutherford County Schools

“My ability to foster trust has been shaped by my broad experience across the K-12 spectrum, including teaching, instructional support, and school leadership. Having served in multiple roles and settings, I understand the diverse developmental, instructional, and organizational needs that exist throughout a student’s educational journey.”

- 11.5 Years of Administrative Experience
- Queens College (BA)
- UNC Charlotte (MA)
- Appalachian State University (MA and Principal Add-On Licensure)
- RCS Education Foundation Board Member
- North Carolina Association of School Administrators Member

Western REGION WINNERS

BLAIR JOHNSTON

Asheville Middle
Asheville City Schools

NICHOLAS HONEYCUTT

North Buncombe Middle
Buncombe County Schools

CRAIG JOSEPH RUMMLER

Hiwassee Dam Middle
Cherokee County Schools

JILL MANN

North Canton Elementary
Haywood County Schools

KATELYN DAVIS

Apple Valley Middle
Henderson County Public Schools

DR. NATHAN FRIZZELL

Blue Ridge Early College
Jackson county Public Schools

MARK SUTTON

Macon Middle
Macon County Schools

JAMES MCGREGOR

Hot Springs Elementary
Madison County Schools

LISA SUTTON

West Elementary
Swain County Schools

ROBERT “BOB” DINSDALE

Rosman Elementary
Transylvania County Schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS



DEBORAH BROWN

Charter School Principal of the Year

The Exploris School
Raleigh, NC

“My practices as principal are grounded in the belief that authentic and intellectually challenging instruction comes from connecting learning directly to students’ lived experiences and empowering them through project-based, inquiry-driven curriculum.”

- 14 Years of Administrative Experience
- State University of NY at Oneonta (BS)
- Syracuse University (MA)
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (PMC)
- NC Education Policy Fellowship Alumni
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Member of Delta Kappa Gamma

Charter Schools REGION WINNERS

ARLIE HARRIS

Central Park School for Children
Durham, NC

TRIPP CRAYTON

Chatham Charter School
Siler City, NC

MELISSA RICHARDSON

Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School
Hollister, NC

MICHELLE HOLLAND

Lake Norman Charter Elementary
Huntersville, NC

2025 REGIONAL FINALISTS

2025

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR



JASON JOHNSON

North Central Region Principal of the Year

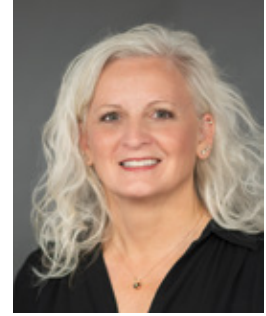
Orange High School
Orange County Schools

- 21 Years of Administrative Experience
- North Carolina A&T State University (BS)
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (MSA and Ed.S.)
- NC Principals and Assistant Principals Association Member
- NC Association of School Administrators Member
- Orange County Schools Equity Task Force



DR. JOHN LASSITER

Northeast Region Principal of the Year
Hertford Grammar School
Perquimans County Schools



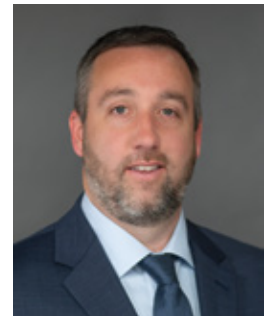
CHRISTY PROPST

Southeast Region Principal of the Year
Morehead City Elementary School
Carteret County Schools



DR. LAURA BAILEY

Sandhills Region Principal of the Year
Scotland High School
Scotland County Schools



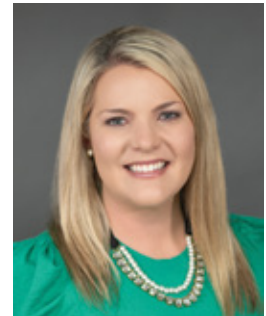
RONNIE HEWITT

Piedmont-Triad Region Principal of the Year
Liberty Drive Elementary School
Thomasville City Schools



KELLY WITHROW

Southwest Region Principal of the Year
Battleground Elementary School
Lincoln County Schools



DR. JESSICA ANTHONY

Northwest Region Principal of the Year
Davenport A+ Elementary School
Caldwell County Schools



KARLEY WELLS

Western Region Principal of the Year
Clyde Elementary School
Haywood County Schools



DR. JAKE WILSON

Charter School Principal of the Year
Mountain Island Charter Middle and High School
Mount Holly, NC

PAST WINNERS

2024 **Beckie Spears**, Wilkes County Schools,
Wilkesboro Elementary School

2023 **Donna Bledsoe**, Surry County Schools,
Cedar Ridge Elementary

2022 **Dr. Patrick Greene**, Greene County Schools,
Greene Central High

2021 **Dr. Elena Ashburn**, Wake County Public School System,
Needham B. Broughton Magnet High

2020 **Kisha Clemons**, Newton-Conover City Schools,
Shuford Elementary

2019 **Matthew Bristow-Smith**, Edgecombe County Public
Schools, Edgecombe Early College High

2018 **Tabari Wallace**, Craven County Schools,
West Craven High

2017 **Jason Griffin**, Perquimans County Schools,
Hertford Grammar

2016 **Melody Chalmers**, Cumberland County Schools,
E.E. Smith High

2015 **Steve Lassiter, Jr.**, Pitt County Schools, Pactolus School

2014 **Dr. Carrie Tulbert**, Mooresville Graded School District,
Mooresville Middle

2013 **Dale Cole**, Beaufort County Schools, Chocowinity Middle

2012 **Patrice Faison**, Guilford County Schools,
Oak Hill Elementary

2011 **Dr. Rob Jackson**, Union County Public Schools,
Cuthbertson High

2010 **Dr. Jan King**, Henderson County Schools,
Glenn C. Marlow Elementary

2009 **Vann Pennell**, Brunswick County Schools,
South Brunswick High

2008 **Debra Morris**, Kannapolis City Schools, A.L. Brown High

2007 **Craig Hill**, Lenoir County Schools, Kinston High

2006 **Marian Yates**, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
South Mecklenburg High

2005 **Margaret Hyatt**, Buncombe County Schools,
Avery's Creek Elementary

2004 **John R. Black**, Hickory City Schools,
Longview Elementary

2003 **Nina René Corders**, Cumberland County Schools,
E.E. Smith High

2002 **Lloyd G. Wimberley**, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
Myers Park High

2001 **Peggy Smith**, Johnston County Schools,
East Clayton Elementary

2000 **Gail T. Edmondson**, Greene County Schools,
Snow Hill Primary

1999 **Daniel A. Piggott**, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Schools, Carver High

1998 **Pandora M. Bell**, Guilford County Schools,
Jesse Wharton Elementary

1997 **Judith H. Budacz**, Pitt County Schools,
Wahl-Coates Elementary

1996 **Mary D. McDuffie**, Cumberland County Schools,
Seventy-First High

1995 **Jo Ann Bowman**, Lee County Schools,
J. Glenn Edwards Elementary

1994 **David C. Burlison**, Burke County Schools, Freedom High

1993 **Ann B. Clark**, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
Alexander Graham Middle

1992 **Jane B. Burke**, Hertford County Schools,
Hertford County High

1991 **John M. Schroeder**, High Point City Schools,
Fairview Elementary

1990 **John R. Griffin**, Cumberland County Schools,
E.E. Smith High

1989 **Barbara M. Ledford**, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
Northeast Jr. High

1988 **Dan A. Jones**, Guilford County Schools,
Erwin Open Elementary

1987* **Karen H. Campbell**, Buncombe County Schools,
W.W. Estes Elementary
Dale J. Metz, Greensboro City Schools,
Gateway Education Center

1986* **Patricia F. Gibson**, Newton-Conover City Schools,
Newton-Conover Middle
Janie E. Manning, Pitt County Schools, Bethel Elementary

1985* **Alice H. Hart**, Buncombe County Schools,
Glen Arden Elementary
Beverly S. White, Hickory City Schools,
Jenkins Elementary

1984* **Robert A. Clendenin**, Guilford County Schools,
Page High
Alexander Erwin, Wilkes County Schools,
Wilkes Central High

* Prior to 1988, two statewide winners were named each year. Since then, one statewide winner has been selected.

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR

“What we do as public educators – molding the future and saving lives – is one of the most powerful and meaningful callings there is.

And to all the educators listening: we must encourage our future teachers and educators. We must lift them up, not discourage them.

The next generation of educators is sitting in our classrooms right now – and they’re watching us.”

JASON JOHNSON

2025 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

Please share moments from today on social media using #nctoyboy.

The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year process is facilitated by the Office of the State Superintendent.