



# Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dr. Nathan Morris, Superintendent of Cross County School District, Selected as 2026 Superintendent of the Year by Arkansas Association of School Administrators (AASA)**

Cherry Valley, AR – Dr. Nathan Morris, Superintendent of Cross County School District, was recently presented with the 2026 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year Award. This award is sponsored by Educational Benefits, Inc. Dr. Megan Duncan, Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), and Jon Collins, Educational Benefits, Inc., presented him with the award at the Cross County School District on September 15.

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Superintendent of the Year program, sponsored by Corebridge Financial, Sourcewell, and AASA, pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools. Candidates are judged on the following criteria: leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Each State's association of school administrators around the nation selects a State Superintendent of the Year. These superintendents are then in the running for the National Superintendent of the Year award and will be recognized and honored at the AASA National Conference in February.

Dr. Nathan Morris is in his ninth year as Superintendent of Cross County School District and brings more than 14 years of experience as an educator in Arkansas. He is a dedicated advocate for both students and teachers, working to close achievement and behavioral gaps associated with poverty, build strong student character, and ensure equitable access to highly effective teachers.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Morris has strengthened district communications by launching "T-Bird Tuesday," a weekly radio segment, "Nest News," a monthly district-wide newsletter, and engaging weekly video updates on social media. Under his leadership, the district also introduced the innovative C<sup>3</sup> program, designed to give every student informed choices and meaningful opportunities for success beyond high school.

Through his vision and leadership, Dr. Morris continues to set a high standard for excellence and achievement in Arkansas and is highly deserving of this award.