



# Biography

## John E. Deasy, Ph.D.

**John Deasy** is the Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools, Maryland’s second largest school system and the nation’s 18th largest district. He leads an organization that offers 134,000 children an innovative, technology-infused curriculum that has produced significant academic gains.

Additionally, PGCPSS provides a wide range of “FOCUS” programs, extended learning opportunities, and support for special needs students, creating an environment in which all students are able to obtain a quality education. This diverse, urban school system serves children from 148 countries, speaking 140 different languages. More than 97,000 students are transported safely to and from school each day, and nutritious meals are prepared for 75,000 children daily.

The school system’s **five core beliefs** are:

1. Children **ARE** our business and **THEY** come first;
2. Parents are our partners;
3. Victory is in the classroom;
4. Continuous improvement in teaching, leadership and accountability is the key to our success; and
5. **EVERY** member of this community shares the responsibility for successful schools.

The Prince George’s County Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. Deasy’s selection as schools chief on March 2, 2006. His effective start date was May 1, 2006.

Since he arrived, Dr. Deasy has launched a series of new initiatives to improve teaching and learning, including the ***Business Plan of Children Come First***. The first two phases of the plan were launched at the start of the 2006-2007 school year and include:

- A new School and System Accountability;
- High School Assessment (HSA) and SAT Strategic Plan;
- Intensive Support and Intervention Schools (ISIS) program;
- Advanced Placement (AP) programs – 8 CORE COURSES in every high school at the start of the next school year, and teachers trained by the College Board this year;
- International Baccalaureate (IB) program improvements and expansion with supporting middle school programs;
- Pupil Personnel Workers Plan;
- Comprehensive Parent and Community Engagement Plan; and
- Library Media Centers Improvement Initiative.

The Board of Education has also approved moving forward on several additional initiatives that include plans for:

- High School Improvement and Redesign;
- Small Learning Communities for all existing schools;
- New Small (Contract) Schools and Increased Options for Parents;
- The Redesign of the school system's Education Foundation; and
- A Performance-Based Pay Plan for teachers and administrators.

Dr. Deasy is leading aggressive school reform strategies designed to: 1) prepare every child for high school graduation, and 2) to make sure college is an option for every child.

As Superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in California, he led a diverse student population. During his tenure, Dr. Deasy led district-wide reforms aimed at a highly focused set of strategies on the improvement of teaching and learning. These successful reforms have resulted in dramatic improvement of student achievement for all categories of students and the closing of the achievement gap. All Title 1 schools are reporting historically high student achievement, resulting in numerous national and state awards. In addition, both in Santa Monica and elsewhere, where Dr. Deasy has been a leader, he has led the development of standards-based administrator and teacher evaluation models, pay-for-performance, staff development and leadership training, development of a data-driven system for decision-making and implementation of research-based whole school reform initiatives. Most notably has been the redesign of large high schools into small learning communities.

All of these successes were possible because of strong partnerships he developed with parents, the community, the business community, the faith-based community and the State, Federal, and local elected leaders. Having begun his work when the district was posting a multi-million dollar operating deficit, Dr. Deasy guided the district to post a multi-million dollar operating surplus, which is just one indicator of the accomplishments achieved through a highly collaborative style of leadership.

Prior to this role, he served as Superintendent of the Coventry Public Schools in Rhode Island for five years. Dr. Deasy also served as a high school principal in two communities, director of personnel, and assistant superintendent of schools. Earlier in his career, he taught biology, chemistry, calculus, and English at the high school level, coached high school sports, and served as an assistant high school principal in New York.

He continues to be a faculty member in university doctoral programs in several states. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Chemistry Education and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Providence College, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education from the University of Louisville.

Dr. Deasy is a Broad Fellow, was an Annenberg Fellow, State Superintendent of the Year, a presenter at numerous State and National conferences, a consultant to school districts undertaking high school reform and district-wide systemic improvement initiatives, and serves on numerous boards including Operation Public Education at the University of Pennsylvania and The Change Leadership Group at Harvard. He works for community and national service organizations, including the National Diabetes Association and his local parish. He is the author of numerous articles and research papers.

Dr. Deasy is married and has three children. Mrs. Deasy, a nurse practitioner and program manager in a diabetes clinic, is the author of *Prevention and Education of Diabetes in the African-American Community*.