



September 2, 2025

Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Dear Florida Educator:

Dr. Jon Prince, St. Lucie County's Superintendent, is very deserving of your consideration to be 2026 Superintendent of the Year for Florida. Superintendent since 2022, Dr. Prince came to our district a decade ago as Deputy Superintendent. As Mayor for 13 years, I can attest to the benefit to our city because of improvements in our St. Lucie County Schools with Dr. Prince as Deputy and now Superintendent.

I nominate him for Florida's Superintendent of the Year not just because in 2025 he led our St. Lucie Public Schools (SLPS) to its first ever A grade; not just because we have no failing schools; not just because SLPS ranks third in Florida; not just because our graduation rate has been over 90% for nine consecutive years; and, not just because 75% of our schools are A or B schools. He should be the 2026 Superintendent of the Year because: He's rebuilding Westwood High School, serving some of my city's most economically challenged students; He's merging small elementary schools in Fort Pierce into K8 to increase student success; He's improved reading proficiency in grades 3-10 by 5%, grades 6-8 by 9%, making SLPS #2; and He's increased industry certifications to 4,368 in 37 pathways through 55 career academies.

SLPS students now number 50,000. Dr. Prince has met this rapid growth with 300 million+ dollars in new construction, expansion, and refurbishment projects benefiting students across the district, including new Legacy High School, 2025; new Western Grove K8, 2026; Fort Pierce Westwood, 2026, and C.A. Moore expansion to K8 and new gym, December 2026. Sixty-seven per cent of voters have twice approved increased taxes to fund capital, technology and facilities investment for our schools.

When I attended St. Lucie Public Schools many years ago, the Superintendent was a remote figurehead who was rarely present in schools. Dr. Jon Prince is engaged, present, dedicated and interacts comfortably with teachers and students alike. He cares and it shows. I am proud to nominate him for 2026 Superintendent of the Year, because he's that and more for our students.

Sincerely,

Mayor Linda Hudson
City of Fort Pierce