



THE SUNRISE CITY
FORT PIERCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COMMISSION

Florida

October 5, 2026

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 Florida's 2026 Superintendent of the Year. Superintendent since 2022, Dr. Prince came to our district a decade ago as Deputy Superintendent. As Mayor for 14 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 because in 2025 he led our St. Lucie Public Schools (SLPS) to its first ever A grade and did it again in 2026. SLPS has 14 A-rated schools and 15 B-rated schools, with zero D and F-rated schools. In core proficiency across three years, SLPS increased 14 points in reading, 15 in math, 12 in science and 14 in social studies, with total increase in proficiency of 55 points. For ten consecutive years, our graduation rate has been above 90%; this year the rate is 94%.

With SLPS students at 50,000, Dr. Prince has planned 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, adding a new gym in December 2026. Our voters have twice approved increased taxes to fund capital, technology and facilities investment for our schools.

This year, Dr. Prince was awarded the Pete Hegener Leadership Award by the Economic Development Council (EDC) of St. Lucie County. The award is presented annually by the EDC to recognize a dedicated leader whose vision, leadership and achievements positively impact the local economy and community well-being and celebrates individuals who exemplify integrity, innovation and civic engagement. Dr. Prince joins a prestigious group of community leaders who have embodied Pete Hegener's vision and legacy, demonstrating his dedication to build partnerships with organizations that can shape the futures for our youth and our local businesses. Dr. Prince has also forged strong partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie and Indian River State College. A recent innovative program, Classrooms to Careers, introduces younger students to potential career choices.

Dr. Jon Prince is engaged, present, dedicated and interacts comfortably with teachers and students alike. He is out in the community, sharing SLPS successes. "All children are capable of success, no exceptions" is not just a slogan for Dr. Prince, but a way of life for him, his staff, teachers, parents and students.

I am proud to nominate him for 2026 Superintendent of the Year, because of his tireless advocacy for, and proven successes in, public school education.

Sincerely,



Linda Hudson
Mayor

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