



Greetings LCS Staff, Families, and Community,

With deep appreciation and mixed emotions, I am announcing my retirement as Lynchburg City Schools Superintendent, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year. Having dedicated over 38 years to education, including 14 years as a superintendent, I feel tremendous pride in the work we have done together in Lynchburg since 2018 to create engaging, innovative, and high-quality experiences for students.

My journey began in 1987 in New Jersey, and since then, I have had the privilege of serving in eight roles across two states, working in six exceptional school divisions. For the past seven years here in Lynchburg, I have referred to my students as “my babies,” and it has brought me great joy to know that the collective efforts of the schools and communities where I have served have made a positive difference in the lives of more than 26,000 students. As I prepare to spend more time with my family, which has been immensely supportive, I carry with me the satisfaction of a career spent supporting the future generation of leaders.

In Lynchburg, we have achieved significant milestones, including expanding early childhood education, adding more AP course offerings, assisting with the launch of the CVCC CTE Academy, and addressing critical student needs through LCS Restore. I am proud of what we have accomplished, but none of these things would have been possible without the work of staff and the community support of our local businesses, organizations, universities, and parents. I am endlessly grateful to our staff, students, families, and the community. They have inspired me daily with their resilience, creativity, and passion.

I see a bright future ahead for Lynchburg City Schools, and the timing is right to galvanize the synergy that exists in our schools and community. I am confident that our school board will craft a new strategic plan rooted in our fundamental philosophy of Excellence by Design, an intentional collaboration among schools, families, businesses, universities, and the community that will lead to even more innovative program offerings for students.

Our theme for this school year is *Minutes Matter*. How we choose to spend our time and how we use each minute is critical. I am thankful to be surrounded by community members who generously give their time and energy to support our children. I want to recognize our parents, guardians, and caregivers for their love and care of both our students and staff. To my fellow educators, administrators, and staff, thank you for continuing to pour your passion into creating meaningful experiences for every child, by name, and by need, to graduation and beyond.

As I prepare for my final nine months as your superintendent, I am filled with both gratitude and anticipation. There is still much to be done, and I look forward to leading this amazing team as we continue our work together. Know that I remain fully committed to our students, staff, and community and will leave confident that Lynchburg City Schools will be a role model for excellence.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,

Crystal M. Edwards, Ed.D  
Superintendent