

# Superintendent Search – Sole Finalist Named

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- What is a Sole Finalist? Being named a sole finalist for superintendent of schools means that the DeKalb County Board of Education has chosen one preferred candidate for superintendent, pending a final vote by school board members.
- What is the selection Process In September 2022, the DeKalb County Board of Education contracted with the Georgia School Boards Association to conduct a national search for the next superintendent of schools. Among the many advertised qualifications, the Board indicated it was looking for candidates with demonstrated effectiveness in decision-making, personal ethics and values, customer focus, communication, and change management. In all, 29 individuals applied for the position by the deadline on January 8, 2023.
- The Board reviewed the applications, conducted interviews, and narrowed the pool to a small number of finalists until it selected a sole finalist.
- Who is the Sole Finalist? On April 4, 2023, the DeKalb County Board of Education announced Dr. Devon Horton as the sole finalist for Superintendent of DeKalb County School District (DCSD).
- Who is Dr. Devon Horton? Dr. Horton has over two decades of experience in educational leadership and currently serves as the Superintendent of Evanston/Skokie School District 65, previously holding positions such as Chief of Schools at Jefferson County Public Schools in Kentucky and Deputy Superintendent of East St. Louis School District 189 in Illinois. He has also worked in various roles at Chicago Public Schools in Illinois. Dr. Horton holds a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Chicago State University, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from the same university, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Jackson State University.
- What's next: According to Georgia law OCGA 50-18-72, school districts must provide a minimum of 14 days for public input before finalizing an agreement with a new superintendent. The Board can vote on the appointment any time after the 14 days.

Town Hall Meetings:

The Board is committed to ensuring a transparent and inclusive selection process that reflects the needs and aspirations of the district's diverse community.

On April 12, 13, & 14, Dr. Horton will engage with district employees, scholars, and community members during April 12-14, including three (3) town hall meetings in DCSD facilities. Locations will be announced shortly on the [DCSD homepage](#). Each two-hour town hall meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

**These meetings will be live-streamed, and the general public and media members are encouraged to attend in person.**

The public is invited to submit questions and provide feedback regarding the sole finalist by completing the survey at <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/8L6n4h>.

School Visits:

On April 12, 13, & 14, Dr. Horton will also visit schools in each region during the day to tour the facilities and meet students, administrators, and staff. These visits are closed to the general public and media outlets.

Dr. Horton's Start Date?

Dr. Horton's start date will be negotiated after the DeKalb County Board of Education approves him.

DCSD Interim Superintendent Vasanne S. Tinsley will remain with DCSD until June 30, 2023, to work collaboratively with Dr. Horton for a smooth transition.