

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Norfolk School Board Appoints Dr. James M. Pohl as Interim Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools

Transitioning Toward a Brighter Future for All Students

The School Board of the City of Norfolk is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. James M. Pohl as Interim Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools (NPS), effective Wednesday, June 11, 2025. The appointment was made by unanimous vote during the School Board work session.

Dr. Pohl, a respected educator with nearly three decades of service in public education, brings a strong and steady presence to the role. His professional journey began as a mathematics teacher at Lake Taylor High School, where he was honored as Teacher of the Year in 2000. His return to lead the division at this pivotal time reflects both his deep roots in the Norfolk community and his unwavering commitment to student success.

Currently serving as NPS's Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Pohl has played a central role in guiding curriculum and instruction, special education, school leadership, and equity-driven reforms. He has consistently championed innovation, academic excellence, and inclusive learning opportunities for all students. "Dr. Pohl is a proven leader with the experience, vision, and commitment to move our school division forward," said School Board Chair Ms. Sarah E. DiCalogero. "The Norfolk School Board has full confidence in his ability to guide this transition and support every student's pathway to success."

Dr. Pohl's extensive leadership experience includes senior roles in both Newport News Public Schools and Virginia Beach City Public Schools. He was recognized as Virginia Beach's Middle School Principal of the Year in 2010 and has led schools at the middle and high school levels. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Old Dominion University, where he continues to mentor future leaders as an adjunct professor.

His work has shaped key initiatives statewide through service on the Governor's STEM Education Commission, #GoOpenVA Advisory Board, and the Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network.

The Norfolk School Board is confident that under Dr. Pohl's leadership, Norfolk Public Schools is entering a new chapter—one marked by renewed focus, transparency, and strategic direction. His appointment signifies not only a change in leadership but a shared commitment to reset, reimagine, and refocus on delivering a world-class public education for every child in Norfolk.

We look forward to working in partnership with Dr. Pohl to strengthen our schools, empower our students, and ensure equitable opportunities for all.

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