

DR. MICHAEL J. MARTIRANO

Interim Superintendent



Dr. Michael J. Martirano was named interim superintendent for the Howard County Public School System in May 2017. He considers himself a teacher first and foremost and believes children must be at the center of all decision-making. Guided by the principle that all children can and will learn, he is committed to ensuring equity and giving every child an opportunity to succeed.

Dr. Martirano most recently served as West Virginia state superintendent of schools where he oversaw 55 county boards of education, 714 schools, 1,755 administrators and 19,488 teachers working on behalf of the state's 277,000 students. During his tenure, West Virginia saw notable success in the areas of early childhood literacy, graduation rates and career technical education. In 2017, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin awarded Martirano the Distinguished West Virginian award, the highest award given by the Governor of West Virginia. Martirano also was named a "Chief Making A Difference" and one of 50 people "Shaping the Future of K-12 Education in America" in the 2014 and 2015 Annual Smart List Awards.

He previously served as superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools in Leonardtown, Maryland, for nine years. During his tenure, the four-year graduation rate increased from the low 80s to an all-time high of 93.5 percent.

Dr. Martirano has been an educator for more than 30 years and has a wide range of educational and administrative experience through his work as a science teacher, principal and visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University. His return to Howard County feels like coming home, because he previously served the school system as a director of School Administration and lived in the county for 19 years.

He was named 2009 Superintendent of the Year in Maryland, a 2010 Innovator of the Year by the *Maryland Daily Record*, and received the 2011 Jack Epstein Award for contribution to multicultural education in Maryland. He is a member of Leadership Maryland, Class of 2007, and he served as president of the Public School Superintendent Association of Maryland.

Dr. Martirano holds a Doctorate of Education degree in school management and instructional leadership from Nova Southeastern University, and two Master of Education degrees and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland.

