

## DR. MICHAEL J. MARTIRANO

Superintendent



Dr. Michael J. Martirano was named superintendent for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in July 2018 after serving as interim superintendent (July 2017–June 2018) and as acting superintendent (May 2017–June 2018). He considers himself a teacher first and foremost, and believes children must be at the center of all decision-making. Guided by the principle “to teach a child well, you must know a child well,” he is committed to leading with equity and giving every child an opportunity to succeed.

Dr. Martirano is leading Howard County public schools with the [Strategic Call to Action](#), which strives to ensure the academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment. Within his first year, Dr. Martirano visited every school to connect directly with students and staff members, and continues to focus on building strong relationships and trust in the system and throughout the community. He has established seven [advisory groups](#) to engage the participation of a wide spectrum of stakeholders in helping to take Howard County schools to the next level.

Additionally, Dr. Martirano is committed to supporting the mental health needs of HCPSS students and families, adding new social worker positions and launching an innovative mental health service delivery model. He has increased dual enrollment and other career preparation pathways, and established the Office of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being to better prepare HCPSS students to be college or career ready. He also placed an emphasis on [early childhood education](#), partnering with county government, local service providers and the Bright Minds Foundation to provide resources and support for young families.

Dr. Martirano most recently served as West Virginia state superintendent of schools. During his tenure, West Virginia saw notable success in the areas of early childhood literacy, graduation rates and career technical education.

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 35 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 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, the 2009 Superintendent of the Year in Maryland, a 2010 Innovator of the Year by the Maryland *Daily Record*, and received the Distinguished West Virginian award in 2017 and the 2011 Jack Epstein Award for contribution to multicultural education in Maryland. He is a member of Leadership Maryland, Class of 2007, and served as president of the Public School Superintendent Association of Maryland.

Dr. Martirano holds a Doctorate of Education 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.