



METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

Dr. Shawn A. Smith
Superintendent

Lawrence Education & Community Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Education Approves Chief of Secondary Education

INDIANAPOLIS – This evening, the School Board of the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township approved the hire of Dr. Crystal Thorpe as the Chief of Secondary Education. Dr. Thorpe comes to the MSD of Lawrence Township from the MSD of Washington Township where she held the role of Director of Teaching & Learning. Dr. Thorpe’s vast education leadership experience includes Principal, Collegiate Faculty Member, Principal in Residence, and Assistant Principal. She is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including 2020 National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Principal of the Year.

She has presented numerous times for the Indiana Association of School Principals, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) guiding current and aspiring administrators on best practices ranging from building leadership to women in leadership and effective advocacy at the state and national level. She has numerous academic publications, often contributing to the NASSP’s Principal Leadership Magazine.

According to superintendent, Dr. Shawn A. Smith, “Having followed Dr. Thorpe’s career over the years, I have seen firsthand her loyalty to public education and her track record of leading educational institutions and fostering academic excellence. I am confident that she will bring tremendous insight and experience to our district leadership team.”

Dr. Thorpe shares, "I am honored to join MSD Lawrence Township Schools, a district with future-forward vision, rooted in innovation, embodying a strong culture of excellence, and led by exceptional leaders. I'm looking forward to serving great schools and a great community. I am truly thankful for this amazing opportunity."

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and English at Indiana University in 1992. She completed her Master’s Degree in Educational Administration at Butler University in 1995. She holds a Ph.D. in Education Administration from Indiana State University (2019).

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About the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township:

The 5th largest and fastest growing school district in the state, the MSD of Lawrence Township serves approximately 17,000 students across four Early Learning Centers, eleven Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools, two High Schools, a Center for Innovation and Technology, and an alternative setting high school. Lawrence Township strives to be the district of destination, a reputation built over the years based on the district’s award-winning staff, accomplished administrators, high-achieving students, supportive community, and innovative educational programs. Visit our website at www.LTschools.org.