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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norfolk Superintendent Start Date Postponed Due to State Licensure Processing Delay

Norfolk - Norfolk Public Schools announces that the start date of Dr. Jeffrey W. Rose as Superintendent, previously scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026, will be postponed due to a delay in final processing of his superintendent licensure application at the state level.

Dr. Rose submitted a complete application for Virginia superintendent licensure through the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) online portal on December 2, 2025. Receipt of the application was confirmed on December 3, 2025. Norfolk Public Schools leadership has since received confirmation from VDOE staff that the application is complete and in order, with no deficiencies in qualifications, documentation, or eligibility identified.

This delay is not the result of any action or inaction by the Norfolk School Board or by Dr. Rose. All required application materials were submitted in full and in a timely manner. The School Board publicly announced Dr. Rose's appointment based on the information provided to the division regarding anticipated licensure timelines and in good faith reliance on the standard processing schedule.

Public records indicate that certification reviews for division superintendent candidates occurred in December 2025 and January 2026 after Dr. Rose's completed application was submitted and confirmed received. Despite the application being complete and in order, formal action by the Virginia Board of Education has not yet occurred.

State leadership has acknowledged the processing issue and is reviewing the matter with its legal team to determine what occurred and the appropriate lawful mechanism for resolution. The Norfolk School Board and division leadership remain in direct communication with state officials to ensure this matter is addressed as expeditiously as possible and in full compliance with state law.

Upon learning that licensure approval would not occur prior to February 23, the Norfolk School Board consulted with legal counsel and carefully reviewed options presented for allowing Dr. Rose to begin service prior to formal licensure action. After review, legal counsel determined that those options would place both Dr. Rose and the Norfolk School Board at legal risk and were therefore not permissible under state law.

"I am disappointed that this administrative matter has postponed my official start, particularly given that my completed application was submitted in early December," said Dr. Rose. "I appreciate the direct engagement from state leadership and remain confident that a lawful resolution will occur promptly. I am ready to begin serving Norfolk and look forward to getting to work."

Dr. Rose also expressed appreciation for the Norfolk School Board's steady leadership throughout the transition process. "The Board has acted thoughtfully and in good faith at every step," he said. "I am grateful for their diligence and their shared commitment to ensuring that we move forward responsibly and in full compliance with state law."

District operations will continue without interruption during this administrative matter. Additional information regarding a revised start date will be shared once final action occurs.



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