

Biography

Dr. Darrin Slade

Superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools

Dr. Darrin Slade began serving as superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools on July 1, 2023, following a nationwide search by the KPS Board of Education. During his tenure, graduation rates have reached the highest level in district history, student achievement has increased, chronic absenteeism has decreased, and school culture and climate have improved.

Dr. Slade began his career in education as a teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools, where he became an assistant principal. He then served as an elementary, middle, and high school principal for the District of Columbia Public Schools for sixteen years. He relocated to Kansas City Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Leadership and played a major role in the district gaining full accreditation. Dr. Slade then served as Deputy Superintendent of the Hazelwood Public School District in the St. Louis area from 2021 to 2023.

Dr. Slade earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Towson University, a master's degree in teaching from Johns Hopkins University, a master's degree in Executive Leadership from Georgetown University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Slade was named the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA) Region VII Superintendent of the Year in 2025. The National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) recognized Dr. Slade as a Superintendent to Watch for 2024-2025. NSPRA recognizes up to 25 school district leaders each year who demonstrate dynamic, fast-paced leadership with strong communication at its core.