

Dr. Benjamin Edmondson is an alumnus of The University of Virginia, The Ohio State University, and Eastern Michigan University. He earned an undergraduate Bachelor Degree in Sociology in 1991; in 1992, he was awarded a Master Degree in Educational Theory and Practice from The Ohio State University, and a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in 2006. His dissertation, *The Effects of Parental Involvement and Small Class Sizes on the Academic Achievement Gap*, earned two prestigious awards, the George Brower Award for Excellence in Education from Eastern Michigan University and an Outstanding Dissertation from the International Society for Educational Planning. His research findings were not only presented to world-renowned professors and public school educators at an educational conference in Bologna, Italy but are now also utilized in his everyday practices as an instructional leader. His career focus is students' academic success with an expertise in the achievement disparities between racial subgroups. Dr. Edmondson has been known to electrify public schools through forward thinking and processes.

His professional career began in 1992 when he took his first teaching position as a fifth grade teacher of an all-black male classroom in Baltimore City (MD) Public Schools. From 1993 – 1995, he returned back to his native New Jersey and taught middle school math and English at his alma mater in Centerton. From 1996 – 1999, he taught fifth grade in a suburb outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2000, Wayne-Westland Community Schools hired him as an assistant principal at John Glenn High School. Within six months, he was promoted to principal of David Hicks Elementary School, in Inkster, Michigan, which at the time was the most troubled and lowest performing schools in Wayne-Westland Community Schools. In his three-year tenure, the school thrived culminating in being recognized as a Golden Apple School, an honor presented by the Governor for schools achieving three straight years of success on the M.E.A.P. test.

In his nine years serving the Ann Arbor Public Schools, Dr. Edmondson remains engaged in and outside of the professional community. He actively served on the District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) since its inception in 2005; served on the negotiating team for the Board of Education during the AAEE and AAEE-OP contract openers; served on the Middle School Restructuring team; helped institute a step team in the AAPS middle schools; co-developed and implemented the Academic Society at Scarlett; created and developed Hip Hop Explosion at EMU, a scholarship event since 2000; he recently served on the principals' negotiating team and holds an Executive Board position. He candidly and openly supports his fraternity's (Alpha Phi Alpha) commitment to Go to High School, Go to College initiative and also volunteers his time at the Reddeman Farms Junior Golf Program. Under his leadership and research expertise, while serving in several principal positions in Washtenaw and Wayne Counties, schools have seen significant reductions in the black-white achievement gap, improved school and home communications, created a greater sense of "community," and been lead out of cyclical dysfunction. Based on his research expertise that has been presented at national, international and State conventions, he is considered an authority on the topic of the academic achievement gap. He founded his own educational consultant company that continues to work with school districts in finding their own ways to alleviate the dubious distinction plaguing most school districts.

Leadership is among his greatest assets and has been noted in The Wayne Observer, Ann Arbor Observer, The Ann Arbor News, and Ann Arbor.com who recognized Dr. Edmondson with a You.tube article. Following suit, The Detroit Free Press, Occasional Series, highlighted his relationship with one of his students; both the writer and videographer recently earned Michigan Emmy Awards for their journalist portrayal of the bond between the featured student and principal. Similarly, through the unwavering support of the Scarlett Middle School community, the AAPS Board of Education acknowledged his leadership by recognizing him with The Celebration of Excellence Award.

He is now in his 13th year as a principal within three public school districts. In Ann Arbor Public Schools, Dr. Edmondson has served at all levels as an administrator including principal positions at King, Scarlett and Clemente. With the great support of staff, an energized community, and a diligent PTSO, Scarlett Middle School won the University Musical Society's (UMS) School of the Year, reduced achievement and suspension gaps between African American and Caucasian students, significantly improved the academic culture and climate, lauded with noteworthy news articles, and revitalized its school atmosphere. In four years serving as the principal of Roberto Clemente Student Development Center, with a committed, united staff, improvements in students' attitudes, attendance, and achievement were maintained and sustained. At-risk students who entered with potentially little promise, found themselves graduating on time, going off to college and finding a great number of other successes under Dr. Edmondson's tenure and this dedicated staff.

In 2011, Dr. Edmondson passed the six-hour, rigorous, scenario based, Educational Testing Service's (ETS) national superintendent certification, which has qualified him to serve as a superintendent in all 50 States. He is a member of the 2008 Michigan Leadership Institute's (MLI), Superintendents Academy that prepares aspirants for the position of superintendent. In superintendent interviews conducted within the past six years and most recently by Ray and Associates, MLI, and Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), he has been a finalist for Adrian Public Schools, Ecorse Public Schools, Westwood Schools and Willingboro Public Schools (NJ). During 21 years serving the K-12 public schools as a teacher, educational consultant, and administrator, Dr. Benjamin Edmondson has been recognized as an exemplary educator known for his intensity, vision, energy, transparency, and tremendous leadership capacity. He is noted for his abilities to empower students, mobilize community members, and develop the talent of staff members, all with a level of respect and high expectations that improved performance standards.

Dr. Edmondson lives comfortably in Canton, Michigan with his two sons, Pierce, age 9 and Harris, age 6 who proudly attend Ann Arbor Public Schools. Nearly all of his personal time is spent playing video and board games, fishing, water skiing, swimming, playing soccer, football, and basketball, working through homework problems and reading bedtime stories with his boys. After he cooks dinner, they sit at the dinner table and talk through any problems they may have in their lives or just laugh at corny jokes. His number one priority in his life is to the development and nurturing of