

Dear OCPS Team,

I wanted to tell you of an announcement I made during the board meeting tonight. I intend to retire as Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools at the end of my current contract, which is June 30, 2012. Please understand that I intend to work very hard for the next 3 years (and 4 months) as your chief executive officer to help guide the district through challenging times. This early notice should help the school district prepare for a smooth transition in leadership.

During my 32 years in the district, I have enjoyed seeing the progress of the district and experienced tremendous personal growth. We have reached "A" status according to the Florida Department of Education, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the school board and stellar staff. We have students, parents and the community to thank as well for this accomplishment.

As we face dire financial deficits over the next 3 years, it remains my commitment to help guide OCPS through a most difficult time. I am convinced that we will emerge from this time as a superior school district that continues to lead its students to success. I look forward to working with you all over the next 3 years.