

Dear Staff and Community,

The Lawrence Public Schools' mission is to ensure educational equity and excellence so that students of all races and backgrounds achieve at high levels and graduate prepared for success in college, careers, and life in a diverse and rapidly changing world.

The Lawrence Board of Education has selected me as the incoming superintendent to lead staff in supporting the academic, social, and emotional success of 12,000 students. This will result in scholars prepared for success in college, careers, and life in a diverse and rapidly changing world.

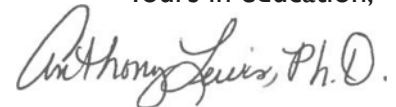
Our primary goal is to determine a road map for successful schooling in an effort to set high expectations and hold each other accountable for ensuring that through equitable access to rigorous, culturally relevant, and seamlessly aligned curriculum, and effective, research-based instruction, all students achieve at high levels, graduate on time, and are well prepared for their future. In order to accomplish this goal, our adherence to our school system's current vision is critical.

As the instructional leader of this school system, it is my distinct duty to ensure that this vision comes to fruition through our collective efforts as a community. This district has made some tremendous progress, and it is imperative that we continue that momentum and forward progress.

The District recognizes that challenges remain. The Board expresses a high level of urgency around race, equity, and engagement when it comes to preparing our successful high school graduates. I share that same sense of urgency, as does our faculty, staff, and community at large. This will require courageous leadership to enact data-driven systems of change. I will not hesitate to make important decisions that benefit all children as a result of my initial listening and learning tour of the school system.

I truly believe in asking lots of questions, which includes listening and learning in order to understand 'the story' prior to charting the course. This entry plan will allow me to begin assessing the organization's strengths and opportunities, identifying areas that will yield quick wins as well as areas that will need intense focus, and leveraging the momentum to not only create a network of contacts and resources in Lawrence Public Schools, but also to energize the community in committing to the vision of becoming the best school district in the country.

Yours in education,



Anthony Lewis, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."
- Gaylord Nelson, former Wisconsin governor and U.S. Senator