**Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.**
**State Superintendent of Education
Mississippi Department of Education**

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., became the State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi in 2013. Under her leadership, Mississippi has initiated aggressive education reforms that have resulted in unprecedented academic success and rising student achievement. Because of the state’s boost in student performance, Quality Counts recognized Mississippi in 2018 as one of the five most improved states in the nation.

Dr. Wright spearheaded initiatives in Mississippi that pushed student achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress to improve at a faster rate than most other states, nearly doubled the Advancement Placement participation and success rate, doubled the number of school districts with more than 45 percent of students scoring proficient or advanced in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and pushed Mississippi’s graduation rate to an all-time high of 83 percent.

A passionate advocate for early childhood education, Dr. Wright implemented Mississippi’s first publicly funded Early Learning Collaborative program, which earned the state recognition from the National Institute for Early Education Research as one of only five states in the nation that meet most quality standards for early childhood education.

Prior to her appointment as State Superintendent for Mississippi, Dr. Wright served as Chief Academic Officer and the Deputy Chief for the Office of Teaching and Learning for the District of Columbia Public Schools and as a consultant to the Harvard Business School Public Education Leadership Project. Dr. Wright previously served as Associate Superintendent for the Office of Special Education and Student Services for the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland and spent the earlier part of her career in Howard County Public Schools as a teacher, a principal, and the Director of Special Education and Student Services. She began her career as a teacher in Prince George’s County Public Schools in Maryland.

Dr. Wright has been recognized as an outstanding educator by the National Center for Culturally Responsive Systems, nominated twice for The Washington Post Outstanding Principal Award, and awarded the Howard County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator of the Year.

Dr. Wright obtained her bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is president of the Board of Directors of Council of Chief State School Officers and is a member of Chiefs for Change.