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Lee County Administrator Named Superintendent of the Year

Frankfort KY – Dr. James Evans, superintendent of Lee County Schools, was named KASA's 2018 Superintendent of the Year (SOY). Dr. Evans received the award today at a surprise ceremony in Beattyville, KY. It was attended by district faculty, staff, board members and community leaders. In addition to this recognition, Evans received a bronze eagle sculpture, a \$2,500 scholarship for a Lee County senior, a SOY ring, and travel reimbursement to the AASA National Conference on Education. He now moves on as a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year Award, given by AASA in February 2018.

A life-long native of Lee County, Evans began his journey as a student in Lee County Schools. From there, he went on to serve as a special education instructional aide, teacher, assistant high school principal, principal, transportation director, and in 2008 accepted the role of superintendent.



"When you talk about Jim Evans, the words vision and innovation are just the starting point," said KASA Executive Director Wayne Young. "I can't think of a superintendent in Kentucky who has leveraged more resources to provide greater opportunities for the students in his school district. He sees the big picture, and has done an incredible job of making it come to life in Lee County."

In the midst of a declining population, 34.7 percent of Lee County residents live below the poverty level with a median household income of \$22,698. For the school district, this equates to 79 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. These statistics change Evans' role in the district. "For Lee County, priority one has to be social and emotional help before we expect students to come to school prepared to learn," said Dr. Evans. "Our strategy has been holistic; if we can provide health/wellness supports, safe and comfortable learning environments, basic supplies, and educational tools for parents, our children will be well positioned for success."

To meet the needs of students, Evans has partnered with local agencies to provide health services during the school year and a two-week clinic during the summer providing free medical, dental, and vision care to students, staff, parents, and the community. Through this and other programs he has put in place, Evans has led Lee County Schools to be a District of Distinction. Only 15 other districts in Kentucky have received this honor.

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KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky's school administrators.

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