



Marion Smith, Jr., EdD

A first-generation college graduate, **Dr. Marion Smith, Jr.** is a career-long, certificated P-12 urban education transformational leader and teacher. A fearless and unrelenting advocate for racial equity, Marion has deep scholar-practitioner roots in both public school districts and a charter management organization in diverse ethnic, linguistic and socioeconomic settings in Las Vegas, Nevada; North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Seattle, Washington. Marion has worked in and/or supported school districts with enrollment ranging from 50 - 310,000 students.

With almost 20 years of documented successes managing complex change while designing, transforming and sustaining educational systems to increase student achievement, Marion has honed his leadership and teaching skills along the P-12 educational spectrum. Since 2015, Marion has served as the regional director of K-12 learning, leadership & student success for Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) in Washington State. In this role, he leads system and school improvement working directly with 50+ state-identified low performing schools overseeing instructional and leadership supports, core professional learning, and technical assistance in the program areas of Teacher and School Leadership, English Language Arts, Mathematics, English Language Learners, Special Education and Social Emotional Learning. Additionally, he leads budget management and fiscal oversight of state and federal Categorical Programs, PreK-3rd grade systems, and K-12 literacy programming.

Previously, Marion served as a superintendent of schools intern in Tukwila School District; principal and assistant principal in Seattle Public Schools; P-8 turnaround charter school founding director in North Philadelphia; and middle school dean of students in the Clark County School District (Las Vegas, NV)- the fifth largest school district in the nation. Prior to becoming an administrator, Marion was a middle school and high school English teacher in the Clark County School District and taught dual language Pre-K in a community center in his hometown of Las Vegas.

As superintendent of schools intern, Marion developed and facilitated a yearlong, job-embedded leadership series, engaged with district legal counsel as part of initial collective bargaining, and collaborated with executive leadership to outline a strategic planning process, involving community stakeholders, resulting in a new three-year district strategic plan and accountability framework.

As a regional K-12 education service district director, Marion developed and implemented a network-wide K-12 continuous school improvement framework and service delivery model focused on leading and supporting both reform and innovation efforts of state-identified low performing schools. Under his leadership, 40% of school districts exited schools from state-identified improvement status in two years. Additionally, he founded

and co-facilitated various innovative professional learning opportunities where state, district and school leaders utilized strategies and resources to develop and deepen practices to foster positive change on behalf of historically underserved students and families: *Coaching & Leading for Racial Equity Institute, Stay Woke! Critical Race Theory (CRT) in Education Introductory Seminar, and Adaptive Leadership for Transformation Academy.*

As a Title I elementary school principal, Marion provided professional development and evaluation of staff to support social emotional learning, Common Core State Standards implementation, and culturally-responsive practices. Under his leadership, this resulted in a District Student Achievement Award highlighting increased student proficiency on state assessments by 23% in math and 17% in reading in one academic year.

Marion's academic preparation includes a bachelor's degree in Secondary English Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), a master's degree in Education Administration & Supervision with K-12 Principal Certification from the University of Phoenix- Las Vegas campus, and a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership & Change from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA. He pursued post-doctoral studies in Executive Leadership at Seattle University (Seattle U) and earned Washington State Superintendent Certification. In addition, Marion was an inaugural member and graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) Urban Superintendents Academy. A K-12 public school student and performing arts high school graduate, Marion is a trained musician and advocates for music and arts education in schools.