

MICHAEL J. HORTON JR.



Summary of Qualifications

With nineteen years of demonstrated leadership and commitment to students, staff, and the community, I seek to use my experience as a school administrator to support the development, implementation, and monitoring of high-quality educational programs that improve student achievement, increase graduation rates, and promote positive school culture.

Core Competencies

Budgeting	Turnaround Leadership	Data Analysis
Event Planning	Curriculum Design	Professional Learning
Performance Management	Communication	Public Relations
Program Development	Human Resource Administration	Team Management

Education and Professional Development

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY – Milledgeville, GA
Specialist in Educational Leadership (Ed.S.)

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX
Master of Arts in Special Education

STATE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
Minor in Psychology

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Principals Center – Organizational Leadership – September 2025
Principals Center – Beginning Principals Academy – January 2020

HAVARD UNIVERSITY

Public Education Leadership Project (PELP) cohort – July 2019

BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Leadership Coaching Credentialing – April 2025

Aspiring Principal Program – April 2023

Aspiring Assistant Principal Program – April 2019

Certifications

- Georgia Leadership Certificate – Tier II
- Georgia Teaching Certificate – Special Education (K-12)
- PBIS Trained School Administrator
- TKES / LKES / GaLEADS Credentialed Evaluator

Professional Organizations

- Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL)
- Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE)

Professional Experience

HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Bibb County School District, Macon, GA

Principal | July 2025 – Present

Provide instructional leadership and oversee daily school operations. Lead school improvement initiatives focused on student achievement, attendance, and school culture. Supervise and evaluate certified and classified staff. Use student performance data to guide instructional decisions and professional learning. Foster positive relationships with students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders.

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL – Bibb County School District, Macon, GA

Principal | July 2018 – June 2025

Led a comprehensive high school serving approximately 1,200 students and supervising 118 faculty and staff members.

Key Achievements:

- Increased graduation rate from 70% to 85%, the highest in school history.
- Led PBIS implementation, increasing state recognition from Implementing to Distinguished, maintaining Distinguished status for three consecutive years.
- Named the first Exemplary School in the nation by SMART Technologies for implementing technology in every classroom.
- Managed and monitored a \$680,000 Title I budget annually.
- Developed multiple classroom teachers into school-level and district-level leaders.
- Improved school climate, reduced discipline referrals, and increased student engagement through PBIS and restorative practices.

RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL – Bibb County School District, Macon, GA

Assistant Principal | July 2015 – June 2018

Assisted with daily school operations, discipline, and instructional leadership. Conducted teacher evaluations and supported professional development. Coordinated testing, RTI processes, and student support programs. Assisted in developing and implementing school improvement goals. Led the P.B.I.S. team to a Distinguished designation.

BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM – Macon, GA

Special Education Teacher / Football Coach | July 2009 – June 2015

SPALDING COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION – Griffin, GA

Correctional Counselor | January 2005 – July 2009

Correctional Officer | September 2003 – December 2004

GRIFFIN-SPALDING COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM – Griffin, GA

Special Education Teacher / Coach | July 2001 – August 2003

BUTTS COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES – Jackson, GA

Social Services Case Manager Associate | April 2001 – July 2001

TANNER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – Carrollton, GA

Associate Clinical Therapist | August 2000 – April 2001

Michael J. Horton Jr.

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April 5, 2026

Dear Superintendent and Members of the Macon County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my interest in the Principal position at Macon County High School. With experience serving as a high school principal, assistant principal, and instructional leader, I am committed to improving student achievement, supporting teachers, and building a positive school culture where all students can succeed.

During my tenure as Principal of Westside High School in Bibb County, I led initiatives that increased the graduation rate from 70% to 86%, the highest in the school's history. I also led the implementation of PBIS, which resulted in the school earning State PBIS Distinguished recognition for three consecutive years. In addition, Westside High School was recognized as the first Exemplary School in the nation by SMART Technologies for implementing instructional technology in every classroom. These accomplishments were achieved through collaboration with teachers, data-driven decision-making, and a strong focus on student support and school culture.

As a school leader, I believe in being visible, building relationships, and creating systems that support both teachers and students. I am committed to high expectations, consistent discipline practices, teacher support through professional learning, and using data to guide instructional decisions. I believe that strong schools are built on positive relationships, clear expectations, and a shared vision for student success.

If selected as Principal of Macon County High School, my focus will be on student achievement, graduation rate improvement, school safety, positive school culture, and college and career readiness for all students. I am committed to working collaboratively with the Superintendent, Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and the community to continue moving Macon County High School forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to interview and discuss how my experience and leadership can support the continued success of Macon County High School.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Horton Jr.