

Biography

Dr. Dewitt Smith

Dr. Smith has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent of schools during his career as an educator. His professional experience is wide-ranging and diverse in nature including service in Arlington ISD, Everman ISD, Tom Bean ISD, and Wink-Loving ISD. Regardless of the district size or challenges, Dr. Smith has a proven track record of aligning people, plans, and practices around a shared purpose in order to close student achievement gaps and improve district performance.

Dr. Smith was named superintendent of Wink-Loving Independent School District in February of 2013. Under Dr. Smith's leadership, WLISD's staff and students continue to set the bar for regional and State-wide academic excellence. While in Wink-Loving ISD, he has worked collaboratively with the WLISD board of trustees and staff on the following initiatives, programs, and projects:

- Developed Wink Early College High School, where students are able to earn up to 60 hours of college credit before they graduate from high school;
- Successful in leading 32 million dollar bond construction project including:
 - Led construction of a new high school
 - Led construction of new career technology center (CTE)
 - Led construction of a new indoor facility
 - Led construction renovation of athletic/fitness center
- Dual credit student enrollment nearly doubled in 2015 (from 16% to 31%)
- Implemented District-wide energy conservation plan resulting in significant cost savings
- Overhauled the food service department and expanded menu options resulting in Texas Department of Agriculture rating designation of "Excellent"
- Implemented Wink HS 1:1 MacBook initiative

WLISD received special acknowledgment from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding Outstanding Academic Achievement as follows:

- 2015 UIL State Lone Star Cup Top 5 Finish (placed 4th);
- 2015 *Community & Student Engagement* Rating of *Exemplary* (Top 30% in State);
- 2014 WLISD Campus honored as *TEA Distinguished Performance School*
- 2014 *High Progressing Designation Award* by TEA (1 of only 3 in Region 18)
- 2014 *Distinction Designation* in Math, Science, Reading/ELA and College Readiness
- 2013 *Distinction Designation Summary—Top 25% In Student Progress*;
- *Superior Achievement*, TEA's chief rating per the Financial Integrity Rating System

Prior to serving as district superintendent in Wink-Loving ISD, Dr. Smith served as principal in the Tom Bean Independent School District from 2007 to 2013. Under Dr. Smith's leadership as principal of Tom Bean Middle School (TBMS) student achievement scores increased significantly. In 2012, the *National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform* honored TBMS as a *National School to Watch*. This designation recognizes especially high-performing middle-grade schools across the United States and is the highest national honor awarded to middle schools by the *National Forum*. During his tenure, Dr. Smith led TBMS to national recognition

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from an *Academically Acceptable* to a multi-year *Exemplary* campus by working in partnership with the staff to improve student achievement scores as follows:

- Increased *All Math* state test scores by 20 points (76% to 96% passing)
- Improved *Math Economically Disadvantage* state scores by 28 points (67% to 95% passing)
- Raised *All Science* state test scores by 23 points (71% to 92% passing rate)
- Increased *Science Commended* state test scores by 21 points (15% to 36% commended rate)
- Improved *Science Economically Disadvantage* scores by 28 points (63% to 91% passing rate)

Dr. Smith served as an assistant principal in the Everman Independent School District, a 5-A district bordering the southeast quadrant of Ft. Worth, beginning in 2005. While in Everman, Dr. Smith served as the campus gang information liaison resulting in reduced gang violence and a significant decrease in discipline referrals.

Dr. Smith began his educational career in 2000 as an intern at Nichols Junior High School a Title I campus in Arlington ISD which is comprised of more than 62,000 students. While at Nichols Junior High School, Dr. Smith taught TAKS preparation, 8th grade U.S. History, Technology Applications, Introduction to Technology (Synergistic Lab), functioned as the campus webmaster, and served as the extended year vice principal and extended year principal.

Dr. Smith is a graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington where he received a Bachelor of Arts in History in May of 2001 and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in August of 2002. Dr. Smith earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in May of 2014 from Lamar University.

In 2010, Dr. Smith was selected to study at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Principals' Center by Raise Your Hand Texas. While at the Principal Center, Dr. Smith studied *Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership*. In 2012, Dr. Smith was nominated to attend the Center for Executive Leadership at Lamar University.

Dr. Smith is married to his wife Amanda. They have three daughters, Kirklyn, Brinkley, and Campbell.