

Dr. Joseph “Jody” C. Barrow



Appointed by Governor Brian P. Kemp with unanimous confirmation by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC), Dr. Joseph C. Barrow was named GaPSC’s Executive Secretary, effective January 1, 2025. Having served education in Georgia for over 41 years at the local, state, and national levels, Dr. Barrow is committed to supporting the educator workforce, working closely with school districts and schools, educator preparation providers, Regional Education Service Agencies, state agencies, and other organizations and stakeholders to ensure effective education for each of Georgia’s children.

Dr. Barrow most recently served as Deputy Director of the Georgia School Superintendent Association (GSSA), working with the organization to provide professional learning experiences and networks for effective system leadership, job-specific knowledge and skills, and improved student results. Prior to joining GSSA, he served as Superintendent of the Fayette County School District, retiring after seven years in that role. While there he placed a specific, successful focus on improving student achievement, increasing graduation rates, and implementing and advancing cutting edge technology. In addition, Dr. Barrow was a driving force behind the district’s Community of Creativity, designed to prepare students to leverage their creativity as a key asset to become leaders in a world-class economy, and the Center of Innovation, which prepares students to be college and career ready through innovative career and technical education courses. He also established School-Based Health Centers and led his district to being named the Georgia School Board's Association's Governance Team of the Year. Construction projects he has led have received national recognition.

A former principal, assistant principal, teacher, and coach, Dr. Barrow held leadership roles in a variety of state and national organizations. He is the former president of the Georgia School Superintendent Association and the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders. In addition, he served on the National Governing Board and was a member of the Executive Committee of the American Association of School Administrators.

Examples of multiple honors Dr. Barrow has received include being named the Georgia Association of Educational Leader’s Outstanding Educator, the Georgia School Superintendent Association’s Bill Barr Leadership Award, the Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth Champion of the Year, and the GAEL Skip Yow Award. He was also recognized by the Georgia Senate and House for his efforts in Educational Excellence, was selected as Superintendent of the Year for Georgia's Head Start Program, was named the Georgia Superintendent of the Year, and received Georgia Southern University’s Alumni of the Year Award.

Most recently, Dr. Barrow was tapped to lead the statewide development of Georgia’s Strategic Plan for Educator Recruitment and Retention, in accordance with Senate Resolution 237 (SR237). Dr. Barrow and his wife, Dr. Susan Barrow, reside in Eatonton, Georgia.