

Leading with Intention and Presence

A NASS Leadership Lens

Quote:

“Your presence is your power.”

— Unknown

Narrative Reflection:

In complex systems, leadership is communicated as much through presence as through words. Superintendents set the emotional temperature of their organizations by how they show up—calm or reactive, grounded or hurried, clear or uncertain.

Leading with intention requires pausing long enough to choose a response rather than defaulting to reaction. This discipline matters most in high-pressure moments, when others look to leadership for steadiness. When superintendents slow the pace, regulate emotion, and respond thoughtfully, they create space for clarity and trust.

Intentional leadership does not eliminate challenges, but it helps systems navigate them with confidence and purpose.

Leadership Toolkit: Intentional Presence

- Pause before responding in high-stakes moments
- Regulate tone and pace
- Respond from purpose, not pressure

Reflection Prompt:

How does your presence influence the energy of the spaces you enter?

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