



Name

Michael J. Volpe

Current School District and Location

Hillsborough Township Public Schools
379 South Branch Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

INTRODUCTION

Michael J. Volpe serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the Hillsborough Township Public Schools, bringing a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted commitment to the district. His journey within Hillsborough's educational landscape spans many years, beginning with his tenure as principal of Hillsborough Elementary School and continuing through his role as the district's Director of Human Resources. After leaving Hillsborough to serve as the Assistant Superintendent for the Princeton Public School, in Princeton NJ and then the Superintendent for the Moorestown Public School, in Moorestown, NJ, he returned to his professional and personal hometown of Hillsborough, where his four children graduated. Volpe possesses a strong foundation in educational leadership having been a teacher, coach, Supervisor, Vice Principal, Principal, Director, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent. He has also served in a variety of civic and community service initiatives in Hillsborough. Appointed as permanent superintendent in January 2023, after periods of interim leadership, Volpe is now at the helm, guiding the district through key initiatives, including budget planning, student safety enhancements, and improvements to daily operations. His long-standing connection to the Hillsborough community and his dedication to student success underscore his leadership, making him a familiar and trusted figure within the school district.

Education

Michael J. Volpe's formal education provides a strong foundation for his leadership as Superintendent of the Hillsborough Township Public Schools. He earned a bachelor's degree in English Education from the University of Delaware, followed by a master's degree in Educational Administration from Kean University. Demonstrating a commitment to ongoing professional development and a focus on creating inclusive learning environments, he has also completed a certificate program in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Experience

Michael J. Volpe brings a wealth of administrative experience to his role as Superintendent of the Hillsborough Township Public Schools, a position he has held for the past three years. His career demonstrates a consistent focus on effective leadership and student well-being. Notably, he has served as the designated School Safety Specialist in Hillsborough, Princeton, and Moorestown school districts. This role, a requirement for administrators in New Jersey, evolved into a personal passion for Volpe, reflecting his commitment to creating secure learning environments. His administrative background includes positions such as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in Princeton and Director of Human Resources in Hillsborough, where he managed large-scale budgets, oversaw hiring processes, and implemented diversity initiatives. He also served as a principal in both Hillsborough and Florham

Park, demonstrating expertise in curriculum development and school leadership. His prior experience includes high school administration and teaching, further solidifying his comprehensive understanding of educational systems. Volpe has also shared his expertise through presentations at state and national conferences.

Outstanding Achievement(s)

Mr. Volpe's career is defined by a consistent record of leadership victories, characterized by fiscal responsibility and a commitment to student success. Most notably, his guidance in fiscal stewardship led S&P Global Ratings to upgrade the district's long-term financial rating to 'AA.' This achievement was rooted in five consecutive budget surpluses and "smart financial planning" that successfully navigated severe state aid cuts. This financial stability has served as the foundation for significant academic milestones, including a 100% Algebra I pass rate for economically disadvantaged students - a feat achieved by only 14 of over 1000 eligible schools in New Jersey. Furthermore, his support for extracurricular innovation saw the Unified Robotics Team secure a First Place State Championship in its very first season.

Central to Mr. Volpe's vision is the holistic well-being and safety of the school community. His proactive approach to security led to the establishment of a dedicated team that reduced fighting-related suspensions by 87.5% at the high school level. These efforts culminated in national recognition, as he was named the 2025 NASS "Excellence in School Safety and Security" award winner. Beyond physical safety, Mr. Volpe has pioneered mental health initiatives, making Hillsborough the first district in New Jersey to provide unlimited, free, online therapy to its entire student body through Hazel Health.

These recent successes build upon a longstanding history of excellence and professional honors. Throughout his career, Mr. Volpe has been recognized as a "Coach of the Year," a recipient of the State of NJ "Best Practice" Award for Character Education, and a member of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." These accolades reflect a career-long dedication to fostering an environment where both educators and students can thrive.

AN INTERVIEW

Tell us about how you see today's superintendent.

Today's superintendent must be a visionary who elevates digital innovation to a central strategic priority rather than viewing it as a secondary support function. In my view, the superintendent must ensure technology has a "seat at the cabinet table," which is why I restructured our central office to include an Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Technology. This role is about fostering a collaborative framework where administrators, educators, and technical staff work together to push the boundaries of a modern school district. Furthermore, I believe the contemporary superintendent must lead a unified movement that blends operational efficiency with deep instructional value, ensuring the district is not merely adopting technology but actively shaping its future application in education.

In the Hillsborough classroom, this spirit has led to elite corporate alliances that have placed Hillsborough at the forefront of instructional innovation. Collaborating with Google, we piloted new features in Google Classroom that used generative AI (their LearnLM platform), designed to help lighten the workload for teachers and provide new exciting learning opportunities for students. You can see this in detail [here](#) in a video showing our work with Google. Furthermore, a strategic pilot with Lenovo and Google Gemini, which was featured in a [national case study](#), was made possible by the commitment of 17 pilot teachers and a technology team that worked alongside Google and Lenovo experts. You can see a video of that

effort [here](#). This collaborative excellence earned the district an invitation to Google Headquarters in NYC, where our team shared best practices with regional leaders.

What new understandings did you acquire after two or three years on the job?

I have acquired a profound understanding of how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be leveraged to solve practical operational challenges and enhance community engagement. For example, I learned that implementing AI-driven solutions, such as our "AlwaysOn" community chatbot, could successfully resolve over 3,600 inquiries with a 99% success rate, significantly improving efficiency without requiring direct staff intervention. Additionally, I have come to understand the necessity of forming elite corporate alliances to drive instructional innovation. Our strategic pilots with Lenovo and Google, including the use of Gemini and LearnLM, have been critical in lightening teacher workloads and providing personalized learning opportunities. Finally, my tenure has reinforced that physical safety and digital responsibility are intertwined, requiring aggressive infrastructure upgrades like encrypted access systems to combat modern threats.

Share an idea to use or something you've learned with your colleagues.

I recommend that colleagues explore the internal integration of Generative AI to empower staff and streamline governance. We successfully utilized Google's NotebookLM+ to create a privacy-focused HR assistant on our "Staff Only" website that answers inquiries regarding payroll and benefits without retaining personal analytics. Additionally, I have found great value in using AI to generate "Audio Overviews" - podcast-style summaries - for my weekly confidential Board reports, which offers Board members a new, engaging medium to consume complex information. On the student side, I strongly advocate for inclusive high-tech opportunities. Our Unified Robotics Team, which pairs students with and without disabilities, won a State Championship in its first season, demonstrating the power of accessible STEM programs.

Submitted by:



1/29/2026

Name/Signature

Date