

James Devers

James Devers is a Kalamazoo, MI native and graduate of Kalamazoo Public Schools (Kalamazoo Central and KAMSC). He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in public administration from The Ohio State University.

A passionate advocate for youth and families, James' volunteer work over the years has included starting several summer camps, tutoring youth and adult learners, and mentoring high school and college students. James returned to Kalamazoo in 2017 after being away for 23 years and has cherished the opportunity to do youth and family empowerment work in his hometown. He currently serves as a board and/or advisory group member for multiple local non-profits, including the KRESA Foundation and the KRESA Career Connect Leadership Advisory Team.

James Devers serves as the Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo (since 2019) – an organization that provides a wide range of essential academic and non-academic supports to low-income students in 23 Kalamazoo school buildings. James has over 25 years of diverse experience in the field of education, ranging from statewide work with the Ohio Department of Education (IDEA fiscal audits and achievement gap interventions); heading compliance work for a charter school authorizer's portfolio of 50 public schools; serving as principal of a K-8 public school; and running a community-based computer literacy training program.

James is married to Tamisha (Palm) Devers, also a Kalamazoo native, who most recently worked for Kalamazoo County as a registered nurse providing home-based services to low-income, first-time mothers through Nurse Family Partnership. James and his wife have four children who attend Kalamazoo Public Schools.