



East Lansing
Public Schools

MEMORANDUM

TO: ELPS Board of Education members

FROM: Dori Leyko, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Assistant Superintendent

DATE: October 9, 2025

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend **Dr. Mark Dobson** for the position of **Assistant Superintendent in East Lansing Public Schools**. Dr. Dobson's extensive experience, academic accomplishments, and demonstrated leadership in educational settings make him exceptionally well-suited to join our administrative team and advance our district's mission and values.

Dr. Dobson participated in **four rounds of interviews** throughout the month of September with various stakeholder group representatives, including teachers, building administrators, district administrators, instructional coaches, support staff, parents & guardians and school board members.

Dr. Dobson currently serves as **Principal of St. Johns High School**, where he has established himself as a visible, energetic, and student-centered leader. Prior to his current role, he served as a **teacher, coach, athletic director, and Dean of Students in Byron Community Schools**, gaining valuable experience across multiple dimensions of school leadership and operations. His well-rounded background provides him with a deep understanding of both instructional leadership and systems-level management.

A proud **Michigan State University** alumnus, Dr. Dobson earned dual **Bachelor of Arts degrees** in *Spanish (with a minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)* and *Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy*. He went on to complete his **Master of Arts in Educational Administration** and recently earned his **Doctorate in Educational Leadership** in **May 2024**, also from MSU. His doctoral capstone focused on **restorative practices**, with **East Lansing High School** serving as one of his case study sites—a testament to his commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive school cultures grounded in positive relationships.

Dr. Dobson possesses both his **Central Office Endorsement** and **Elementary and Secondary Administration K–12 certification**, in addition to maintaining his **teaching**

certification in *Social Studies, Spanish, and English as a Second Language*. This combination of credentials reflects not only his academic excellence but also his versatility and commitment to lifelong learning.

Those who have worked closely with Dr. Dobson consistently describe him as a **relationship-builder**, a **strategic thinker**, and a **collaborative leader** with an unwavering **commitment to educational equity**. His current superintendent has characterized his **integrity, ethical conduct, and professionalism as “beyond reproach.”** Dr. Dobson’s leadership philosophy emphasizes the power of visibility, enthusiasm, and authentic connections—principles that align deeply with East Lansing Public Schools’ culture of inclusivity, engagement, and high expectations.

I am confident that Dr. Dobson’s experience, intellect, and passion for public education will make him an invaluable asset to our district. He will bring not only administrative expertise but also the heart of a teacher and the mindset of a learner to this important leadership role.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information or perspective regarding Dr. Dobson’s qualifications.

Respectfully,

Dori Leyko
Superintendent
East Lansing Public Schools