

Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Joseph P. Dragone has served as Superintendent of the Ballston Spa Central School District since August 2008. He received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Education degrees from The College of St. Rose, and a Master of Science, Certificate of Advanced Study and Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from the University at Albany, State University of New York.

As a business model to drive program innovation, in 2008 Dr. Dragone created the “Partnership for Innovation in Education” to actively promote collaboration with business, industry, higher education and government. Since that launch, K-12 programs have been implemented including Sustainable Design, Video Game Design, Pharmaceutical Research, Artist-In-Residency Programs, Coding, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, School Based Mental Health Clinics, Film Making, College/University in the High School courses, National Certifications in the Building Trades, Robotics, Biomedical Science and Nanotechnology, which was featured in *Education Week*. Through expanding higher education opportunities for students, the district offers over 40 courses that matriculate for college credit or include national certification credentials, in addition to operating the regional Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Early College High School. The latter is in collaboration with over 50 partners in business, industry, higher education and government, driving this cross-sector model. In addition to leading the aforementioned initiatives, Dr. Dragone has extensive experience in both urban and suburban school district leadership related to school and district improvement planning, implementing instructional technology, data analysis, building organizational and instructional capacity, commitment to 21st Century Skills and extensive capital improvement projects.

Since 2010, the Ballston Spa Central School District has received the “Endurance Award” from the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, was twice recognized on The College Board’s Advanced Placement® Program’s “AP® Achievement District Honor Roll” and in 2017 received the Best Communities for Music Education Award from the National Association of Music Merchants. The District’s schools and programs have won awards from various organizations including The Partnership for 21st Century Learning, *District Administration* and The Center for Economic Growth, and have been nationally ranked by Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report and the Washington Post. Schools have also received special designations as National PTA Schools of Excellence and Gold Star “No Place for Hate” Schools from the Anti-Defamation League.

Dr. Dragone has served on many expert panels including the Partnership for 21st Century Learning National Summit on 21st Century Readiness in Washington, DC; as a Panelist on the Business Review’s *Education Power Breakfast* and presenting with SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Johanna Duncan-Poitier and Andrea Mulkey, EdWorks “*Smart Scholars Early College High Schools: What Works*” at the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. Dr. Dragone currently serves on the College Readiness Workgroup

for the American Association of School Administrators and the American Association of Community Colleges and is on the ESSA workgroup for the College in the High School Alliance. Dr. Dragone presented the keynote address for the 2014 Greater Southern Tier Regional STEM Academy, the 2015 National Association for Workforce Improvement (NAWI) Conference, the 2015 CASDA Summer Data Institute and in 2017 was a guest to address the SUNY Board of Trustees regarding partnerships with higher education.

A 2008 recipient of the “40 Under Forty” Award, 2014 feature in “10 Minutes With...” and 2017 Education and Workforce Executive Roundtable Participant with the *Business Review*, Dr. Dragone currently serves on the Board of Trustees of The College Board and the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation. A former Trustee for *miSci* and Workcreek Member on Workforce Development and Education for former President Obama's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) 2.0 Initiative, Dr. Dragone also currently serves on the Executive Advisory Boards of New York Tech Valley FIRST Robotics, the Department of Education at Clarkson University and the Advance Saratoga Startup Advisory Team. As a Gubernatorial appointee to the Capital Region Economic Development Council, Dr. Dragone co-chairs the Workforce & Education Workgroup. He received the 2014 American Graduate Champion Award from WMHT and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the 2017 National Community Action Award from the Saratoga Economic Opportunity Council. Dr. Dragone resides in Halfmoon, New York with his wife Janet and daughter Gianna.