

## **Arkansas Department of Education**

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, commissioner

### **News release**

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### **CAMDEN-FAIRVIEW SUPERINTENDENT NAMED AS FULL-TIME LEADER OF THE PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Education Commissioner Dr. Tom Kimbrell today announces that Dr. Jerry Guess, a respected veteran school administrator, has been appointed as superintendent of the Pulaski County Special School District.

Guess comes to the PCSSD with more than 30 years of experience in education. He's been the superintendent of the Camden-Fairview district in Ouachita County for 15 years.

Kimbrell described Guess as having the personality and skills to lead the PCSSD during this important time. Under his leadership, Camden-Fairview successfully worked through a federal court desegregation order and provided a quality education to a diverse student body. Guess, a native Arkansan, knows the state's people and laws, and has gained respect from educators and leaders across the state.

"Throughout his career, Dr. Guess has demonstrated integrity and brought a steady hand in good times and in tough times," Kimbrell said. "The PCSSD needs leadership and Dr. Guess will bring it."

Guess will start at PCSSD on July 5. He will replace Bobby Lester, who was tapped as a temporary head of the troubled district after the state took over June 20. Lester, a retired PCSSD superintendent, will stay on for a few more weeks in a part-time role to help with the transition.

"This is an opportunity to help Dr. Kimbrell," Guess said. "I've been at Camden-Fairview for 33 years. I would just like a new challenge. Without a doubt, the problems at PCSSD are significant, but there will be a great deal of help from the people at the department and from any number of qualified people at the district. Right now, the biggest challenge is getting ready for the first day of school."

Guess began his educational career in 1978 as a language arts teacher in the Fairview district, which later consolidated with Camden. He later served as the district's coordinator for gifted and talented students, as assistant principal and principal of Fairview Middle School, and as assistant superintendent and associated superintendent of the Camden-Fairview district. He rose to his current post in 1996.

He graduated from Chidester High School, not far from Camden. He received a bachelor's degree from Southern State College in Magnolia, a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and a doctorate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Guess, 60, was the Arkansas superintendent of the year in 2008 as voted by the Arkansas Association of School Administrators. He is currently president of that group. He was elected recently as the vice president of the Arkansas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.