



Northwest Allen County Schools

June 22, 2026

Board of School Trustees
Northwest Allen County Schools

Dear Members of the Board,

After much prayer and reflection, this letter serves as my notice of retirement as Superintendent of Northwest Allen County Schools, effective June 30, 2027.

Making this announcement a year in advance is intentional. My goal is to provide the Board of School Trustees ample time to ensure a smooth and orderly leadership transition and to develop a plan that supports the continued stability and success of Northwest Allen County Schools. Our students, staff, families, and community deserve a process that is deliberate, thorough, and focused on the long-term interests of the district.

The 2026-2027 school year will mark my 38th year in public education. As I reflect on those years, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities I have been given to serve students, families, and communities throughout my career. The Psalmist writes, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." As I consider the blessings of a career spent in public education, I am reminded of the importance of using our time wisely, serving others faithfully, and being grateful for every opportunity we are given to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Looking back, I was blessed to begin my educational career at Carroll High School as a young business teacher with dreams about serving students and making a difference. I could never have imagined that nearly four decades later I would have the privilege of concluding my career as Superintendent of Northwest Allen County Schools. To begin and end my educational journey in this community is a gift for which I will always be grateful.

As a person of faith, it is not lost on me how God has orchestrated my life and career for such a time as this. Looking back, I can clearly see His guidance through opportunities, challenges, relationships, and experiences that ultimately led me back to Northwest Allen County Schools. For that, I am deeply thankful.

Throughout my career, I have been driven by a simple belief: that every decision should be made with students at the center. Northwest Allen County Schools' commitment that "Your Future Is Our Passion" reflects that belief and has guided our work on behalf of students and families.



Northwest Allen County Schools

While Northwest Allen County Schools is known for its academic excellence, outstanding facilities, and strong community support, its greatest strength has always been its people. I have had the privilege of working alongside extraordinary teachers, administrators, support staff, board members, families, and community partners who dedicate themselves each day to helping students learn, grow, and succeed. The impact these individuals have on the lives of children is immeasurable, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served beside them.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the current and former members of the Board of School Trustees who have entrusted me with the opportunity to serve as superintendent. Your leadership, commitment to students, and willingness to make decisions with future generations in mind have helped position Northwest Allen County Schools for continued success.

Although there is still important work ahead during the coming year, I am extremely confident in the future of this district. Northwest Allen County Schools is blessed with outstanding employees, exceptional students, supportive families, dedicated community partners, and strong governance through its Board of School Trustees. Because of those strengths, I firmly believe the best days of this district are still ahead.

The opportunity to serve Northwest Allen County Schools and this community has been a tremendous blessing. I look forward to working alongside the Board throughout the next year to ensure a smooth transition and to position the district for continued success long after my retirement.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Wayne Barker
Superintendent