

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2025

Dwight Levens, Jr. Honored with AESA's Exemplary Service and Innovation for Technological Advancement Award

Ripon, WI — The Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESa) is proud to announce that Dwight Levens, Jr., Chief Technology and Information Officer for Oakland Schools, is the recipient of the 2025 Exemplary Service and Innovation for Technological Advancement Award.

This prestigious national award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovation in advancing educational technology across service agencies. Under Levens' visionary leadership, Oakland Schools' Technology Services Department has become a model of excellence, serving over 175,000 students and 40,000 educators across 28 public school districts in Michigan.

From instructional technology coaching and infrastructure modernization to cybersecurity and statewide application support, Levens has led a team that consistently delivers high-impact, student-centered solutions. Among the department's groundbreaking initiatives is the Oakland Schools AI Collective, which unites all 28 local districts to collaboratively explore ethical, human-centered applications of artificial intelligence in education.

"Dwight's leadership has fostered a culture where operational excellence meets educational innovation," said Kenneth Gutman, Oakland Schools Superintendent. "Oakland Schools Technology Services exemplifies the very mission of an educational service agency: to deliver visionary leadership and equitable access to high-quality services that improve outcomes for all learners."

The department's cybersecurity ecosystem and its management of large-scale consortia like MISTAR and MIPEER have further solidified Oakland Schools' reputation as a national leader in educational technology. These systems not only enhance technical robustness and security but also generate cost efficiencies that redirect resources back into classrooms.

Levens' strategic vision and unwavering commitment to service have elevated the standards by which ESAs across the country measure innovation, collaboration, and impact.

AESA congratulates Dwight Levens, Jr. on this well-deserved honor and celebrates his continued contributions to the future of education.



Dwight Levens, Jr.