

Akeshia Craven-Howell

Akeshia Craven-Howell became an assistant superintendent for school options and innovation for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 2014. It is her second job with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; previously, she was executive director of transformation.

In her work as assistant superintendent, she is responsible for developing strategy to increase access to high-quality magnet and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and middle and early college schools in the district, as well as developing new programs.'

“We provide families choice by offering a range of school options characterized by innovative and well-defined themes, programs of study and school models,” Craven-Howell said. “Our goal is that all students have equitable access to choice within their communities.”

Craven-Howell began her career working with engineering and consulting firms in Raleigh and Evanston, Illinois. At Asea Brown Boveri in Illinois, she worked as a marketing consultant and sales engineer in the electricity marketing division. At The Alford Group in Raleigh, she led consulting teams to provide strategy management and development solutions in the not-for-profit sector.

She moved to the Chicago Public Schools in 2005, working as a project manager for high school transformation, a senior manager in instructional leadership, a chief area officer for high schools and an officer for pathways to college and career. She joined Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 2013.

A native of Raleigh, she has a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University and a master’s of business administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She has also completed the Broad Center’s Residency in Urban Education.