

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Pennsylvania Principals Association



Joseph H. Clapper, D.Ed.
Assistant Executive Director
PA Principals Association



Dr. Joseph H. Clapper is the Assistant Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Principals Association, located in Summerdale, PA. He brings more than 30 years in public education to our association.

Dr. Clapper served 10 years as a school superintendent retiring in July 2014 from the Quaker Valley School District in Sewickley, PA. In addition, he previously served as superintendent of schools in the North Hills School District in Pittsburgh, and as the assistant superintendent of Quaker Valley School District. He also has experience as a high school and elementary school principal, assistant principal, supervisor of instruction, elementary teacher and secondary English/reading teacher.

In addition, Dr. Clapper was an assistant professor of education at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa., teaching undergraduate coursework in educational psychology, foundations of education, elementary and secondary instructional methods and early childhood education, as well as a field experience coordinator and staff development instructor for The Pennsylvania State University. While in this position, he created a new student teaching center in the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Clapper has received numerous awards and accolades throughout his highly esteemed career in education, such as the Penn State Leadership and Service Award (October 2014); the Tri-State Distinguished Educator Award (March 2014); the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrator's (PASA) Award for Service to the Profession (March 2013); and the William E. Caldwell Award for Excellence in Administration and Supervision from the Pennsylvania School Study Council (October 2013). He is a member of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's State Assessment Advisory Committee, the American Association of School Administrators, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Dr. Clapper also serves on the Penn State College of Education Alumni Society Board and was recently elected as the President-Elect. He will begin his service as the President of the Alumni Board in 2020.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a master's degree in educational administration from Shippensburg University. He earned his doctorate of education in curriculum and instruction from The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Clapper is married to Dr. Christy Clapper, who is a retired school counselor. Their daughter, Laura, received her doctorate in music from Florida State University in 2018.