

Where will Marty Pollio head next? Retiring JCPS superintendent announces new job

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Marty Pollio is heading across the Ohio River to enter the world of postsecondary education.

Set to [retire as the superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools](#) at the end of June, Pollio will start his role as president of [Ivy Tech Community College](#) in Indiana the following day.

His appointment and three-year contract was approved by the college's board Wednesday afternoon.

"I'm excited to get into postsecondary," Pollio, who has worked for JCPS for 30 years, told The Courier Journal. "I've done a lot of work on workforce development — between being a principal and doing this — so I think it's a good next step for me."

Ivy Tech has 45 locations across Indiana, with its central office located in Indianapolis. The school, which grants associate degrees, collectively has more than 175,000 students — a good chunk of whom are high school students enrolled in dual credit courses.

Pollio said his goal will be to continue to grow the college's dual credit program and to "really align the work being done at Ivy Tech with the workforce in Indiana and even Kentucky."

In order to do that, Pollio pointed to [JCPS' Academies of Louisville program](#), indicating he'd like to take that model into K-12 schools across Indiana.

JCPS launched the model in 2017. The wide-range of academy programs gives high school students career-themed lessons and, in some cases, allows them to earn industry certifications before graduation.

This could be especially helpful to Ivy Tech's goal of combatting the state's workforce shortage in response to a [recent report](#) from the college that noted Indiana's decline in skilled talent, particularly in the advanced manufacturing; transportation and logistics; healthcare; and technology fields.

The academies program, Pollio previously told The Courier Journal, is one part of his legacy he is especially proud of.

Ivy Tech's current president, former Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann, [announced her upcoming retirement last year](#) after serving in the role for eight years. Her contract also ends in June.

Pollio announced he'd be retiring from JCPS in September. Having spent the last seven years as superintendent, he is one of the longest-tenured superintendents of any large urban district in the country, according to the **Council for Great City Schools**.

In the time since, Pollio said he had been struggling with what his next steps would be, and he's "had a lot of opportunities come my way over the past nine months."

When he received a call about Ivy Tech, he said he wasn't sure about going into postsecondary education, but "the more I started looking at the opportunity and the impact that I can have on both kids and adults alike, it really piqued my interest."

Other aspects of Pollio's lasting impact on JCPS include the district's new [strategic plan](#), coined "Future State."

That plan included expanding school choice for families through the district's new student assignment plan — though JCPS' decision to end magnet transportation for most students has drawn criticism among those who previously supported the new assignment plan.

Under Pollio's leadership, the district has also launched numerous large capital improvement projects; increased access to technology; increased funding for some schools serving high-needs populations; created an internal police department and aligned reading and math curriculums across all K-8 schools.

"Together, we have traversed through two of the largest crises in the history of public education," Pollio wrote in his retirement announcement. "As a result of the pandemic and severe staffing shortages, our jobs have become much more difficult. Through all the major challenges, I am so proud of the accomplishments we have made together for the students of this community. As a superintendent, it would have been easier to keep the status quo. Change is very hard. But I am extremely proud that we made the decision to make the most substantial changes in the history of JCPS despite many challenges. I truly believe that these changes will result in decades of improved outcomes for our students."

The district is still looking for a replacement for Pollio. Last week, six candidates were identified as finalists from a pool of 34 applicants. After a selection committee conducts interviews next week and narrows the field down to two candidates, their names will be made public. Public interviews will be scheduled the week of May 19.