

## Dr. James C. Morse, Sr. Biography

Dr. Morse has been a student advocate and educator for 32 years. He has taught Art in grades K-12, taught summer school reading, has been a principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and an Assistant Superintendent as well as Superintendent of Schools. He has served as Superintendent in the Messalonskee School District (MSAD 47) in Oakland, Maine for the past twelve years.

Dr. Morse was born and raised in Portland and grew up on Adams and Oxford Streets. He graduated from Portland High School in 1973. After graduation he attended the University of Maine at Orono where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree. In 1987 he earned a Master's in Education from UMO and in 1996 he earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Sarasota.

He has focused his career on opening up opportunities for all students to succeed. While superintendent in Limestone, he partnered with the town and state in the creation of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM), Maine's only public charter school of choice. During his tenure as superintendent in Messalonskee drop-out rates have remained very low, struggling students have had programming options expanded, college placement rates have increased, all day Kindergarten and four year old programming were enacted, a comprehensive technology program was developed, and a systemic and continuous focus on literacy best practices was instituted PK-12.

Dr. Morse believes that research driven decision making, a dedicated workforce, high expectations, strong student/staff relationships, a relevant curriculum and common sense are all critical elements necessary in order to achieve success for all students.