

MassCUE Administrator Award 2015



Gary E. Maestas, Ed. D.

Superintendent, Plymouth Public Schools

Dr. Maestas embarked on his career in education after graduating from New Mexico Highlands University and teaching in the Longmeadow public school systems. During that time, he also worked as Program Coordinator at Mount Holyoke College. After earning a Master's Degree in

Education from Springfield College, Dr. Maestas soon began his administrative career as assistant principal at North Brookfield Junior/Senior High School in North Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Dr. Maestas' tenure in the Plymouth school district began after a three-year stint as principal in the Old Rochester Regional school system. Serving as Plymouth's Coordinator of Media and Technology Services, he worked with all K-12 schools in implementing hardware, software and technology standards into the District curriculum. It was during this period Dr. Maestas served as an adjunct professor at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts and Framingham State College, and as a senior visiting lecturer at Bridgewater State College.

Following a brief tenure as principal of Plymouth South Middle School, Dr. Maestas was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in 2003. During that time, he received a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study from Regent University (earning his Doctor of Education degree from Regent in 2010). Dr. Maestas succeeded Mr. Barry Haskell as the Superintendent of Plymouth Schools in 2008.

During his seven years at the helm, Dr. Maestas has worked extensively with school committee and local boards to develop innovative programs to benefit the youth of the community. Dr. Maestas has also been a facilitator in the construction of a new, \$84 million Plymouth North High School and a new, \$107 million Plymouth South High School project slated to open in September of 2017.

In 2011, Dr. Maestas took part in the DreamRide, a fundraising bicycle ride from Washington, DC to Plymouth, MA. Over the course of seven days, Dr. Maestas and Jordan Hospital CEO Peter Holden—accompanied by a team of student videographers, bike technicians and volunteers-- cycled eight hours a day, stopping at local schools to spread their message of education and healthier living. The journey also featured video blogs, where Dr. Maestas conversed with students back in Plymouth about the journey and developing healthy life habits.

In total, the DreamRide raised \$46,000 for the Plymouth Education Fund, a non-profit organization established to support and enhance the education of the students and citizens of the Town of Plymouth.

Married, Dr. Maestas resides in Marion with his wife Ruby and their children Martin, Gary and AJ.