



LARRY D. JOHNSON

***Chief of Staff &
Executive Director of Public Safety & School Security
Grand Rapids Public Schools,
Grand Rapids MI.***

Larry received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI and his Masters Degree in Police Administration, from Ferris State University. He graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigations 218 session of the National Academy. He has also completed Harvard University Superintendents Leadership Program and is currently working toward completion of his doctoral degree in Education. Larry will release his second book in which he has been researching for over ten years, on the 4th Generation of Babies Having Babies and The Impact it has on Education". In February 2014 Larry released his first book "The components of A Safe School", currently the book is receiving great reviews in the school safety and security industry, and is being utilized by many districts in the United States as a guide for managing a school security program. His Follow up book "The Fourth Generation of Babies and Babies and its Impact on Education" is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2016.

Larry is a former Benton Harbor MI., Lansing MI, and Grand Rapids MI., Police Officer. He also a retired Police Sergeant with the Grand Rapids Police Department, in Grand Rapids Michigan. While working for the Grand Rapids Police Department, Larry worked in the Departments vice Unit, Recruiting and Training Unit, and was the supervisor of the Gang Intelligence Unit and Special Response Team (SWAT).

Throughout his professional career, Larry has received many awards for his actions, including the Grand Rapids Police most prestigious award, the Meritorious Service Award, for his actions in December of 1995, while involved in an undercover drug operation, which nearly cost him his life.

Larry Johnson was appointed Director of Public Safety & School Security of the Grand Rapids Public Schools on August 15, 1997. Executive Director of Public Safety in 2007; and Assistant Superintendent and Executive Director of Public Safety in January of 2012. On February 1, 2015, Larry was appointed as the Intern Superintendent of schools during the absent of the current superintendent of schools. Currently, Larry services as the Chief of Staff, and the Executive Director of Public Safety.

Today, Larry is responsible for departments that consist of 45 Public Safety & School Security Officers. He oversees school safety and security issues, including emergency response and crisis management, bomb threats and safety and security training for teachers, administrators and support staff. In addition, Larry also supervises the districts Risk Management Department, Management Information Systems, Freedom of Information, EEOC, Purchasing, Supply, Food Services and Internal Investigations Department. Larry is responsible to evaluate, and design all security technology needs for the district and often makes recommendation to other districts as it relates to security technology and other security related matters.

Larry attended the United States Secret Services, National Threat Assessment Program. Larry was one of twenty-four individuals in the nation to attend the program, which is aimed at reducing the amount of targeted school violence in our nation schools. He was elected as the Midwest Regional Director of the National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officials. He is responsible for providing safety and security leadership for 10 Midwestern States. In July, 2012 he was elected as the President-Elect of the organization which is the largest school safety and security organization in the world, serving over 1,500 school safety leaders and executives. In July 2014, Larry took over the leadership role as the President of the National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officials. In July 2016 he assumed the role of Chairman of the Board for NASSLEO, and continues to work with the organization to push out important messages and leadership on school safety and security.

He serves on the Grand Rapids Public Schools Executive Cabinet and is part of the districts daily efforts to increase achievement, while embracing and implementing the districts goals to create and maintain a safe school environment.

Larry has written several articles that have been published nationally, on the issue of school safety and security and spends hundreds of hours studying and researching the causes of violence in schools. **His true passion however, involves working with youth to help create a positive future for them.**

He travels throughout the nation to participate in national training conferences as well as speak on school safety issues. In April 2016, Larry traveled to Tokyo, Japan to meet with technology executives to discuss how to implement security technology in schools. He has also served as a consultant to a number of school districts on school safety issues, and has written over 75 school safety training programs.

He has been interviewed by National and International news agencies including CNN, The Chris Mathis Show, Rolling Stones Magazine, CBS, NBC, ABC News outlets. He as appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show three times, as well as international news outlets such as the BBC, Al Jazerra America and Austrian News Services regarding his knowledge and leadership on school safety security and law enforcement Issues.

Larry has been married for 33 years to Christina Johnson, and is the proud father of three adult children, and grandfather of two. Together Larry and his Wife Christina have over 65 combined years working with Youth on the issues of school safety and security.