

Michael R. Williams, M.Ed, M.S., NBCT
Professional Biography



Michael Williams, a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and proud graduate of West Charlotte High School, is a former middle and high school social studies teacher and current district administrator for Cabarrus County Schools in Concord, North Carolina.

In 1990, while a student at J.T. Williams Junior High School, Michael lost a friend to gun violence. Over the course of the next five years, he experienced this pain six more times. During this time, he began to seek out solutions to this growing problem among urban youth in America. Through his middle school years, Michael served as one of the first trained peer mediators in North Carolina's schools. He helped to develop a highly successful peer mediation program that served as the model for the state.

In 1992, upon his commencement to West Charlotte High School, Michael joined Gary Weart and the SAVE team, serving as the West Charlotte High School chapter's president. In this role, he spoke at engagements across the district, state, and nation. In addition, he helped to create several public service announcements and documentaries and appeared on national television to advocate for non-violence.

Upon his high school graduation, Michael enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he majored in History and minored in Social Justice Studies. As a college student, he served on the initial SAVE Board of Directors and helped coordinate the first Youth Advisory Council. In addition, he continued to serve SAVE as a part of the speakers' bureau.

In 1999, Michael joined the Cabarrus County School district as a middle school social studies teacher. For the next 10 years, he worked with thousands of students and was honored with the PENC First Class Teacher Award, along with several other recognitions. In 2007, he was named Teacher of the Year.

In 2010, Michael left middle school to work with at-risk students at a Title I high school. In this role, he worked primarily with students who had failed multiple social studies courses. Ultimately, nearly all of his students achieved growth and more than 90 percent met the state requirements for course credit. More importantly, he worked to help students develop the belief they could be successful and many are now enrolled in colleges and universities.

Michael accepted a position with the Cabarrus County Schools Curriculum and Instruction department in 2012 as the district's instructional specialist for secondary schools. In this role, he coordinates teacher professional development and growth. In addition, he is a member of the faculty of the College of Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, teaching courses centered on education and social justice.

Michael has a Master of Education in Social Studies Education with a specialization in Teaching for Social Justice from UNC Charlotte, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University with a specialization in Strategic Planning, and has completed coursework toward his PhD in Educational Policy focusing on the interaction of race, ethnicity, and social class with the educational system. In addition, he holds National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification in Early Adolescent Social Studies.

Michael lives in Concord, North Carolina with his wife Chrissy, an eighth grade math teacher, their son Taylor, who is entering the fourth grade, and Folly, a Heinz 57 dog named for the best beach on the east coast.

SAVE played a very important role in Michael's formative years and laid a foundation for his later work in education and social justice. He looks forward to continuing this relationship with such an important organization.